







GK. Waterhouse



THE  
HARCOURT PAPERS.

EDITED BY

EDWARD WILLIAM HARCOURT,

OF STANTON HARCOURT, AND NUNEHAM COURTENAY,  
IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORD, ESQUIRE.

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## PREFACE.

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THE task which the Editor of these Papers set himself to perform, was to preserve old Family Records, that might otherwise have fallen into oblivion.

This work, to the best of his ability, he has now carried out; and in bringing the third volume of the "Harcourt Papers" to a conclusion, he hopes that the driest part of his labours is accomplished.

The succeeding volumes will contain slight Memoirs of Simon, Lord Harcourt's successors in the family estates, together with extracts from such Papers and Correspondence as have been preserved during the last hundred years, and as may appear to be worthy of notice.



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MEMOIR OF SIMON,  
SECOND VISC. HARCOURT.

### CORRIGENDA.

P. 274, line 7 (and in other places), *for* "Fanquier" *read* "Fauquier."

P. 278, line 4, *for* "Farrer" *read* "Farren."



## Memoir of Simon, Second Viscount Harcourt.

SIMON, grandson of Lord Chancellor Harcourt, was born in the year 1714; he had the misfortune to lose his father when he was six years old, and at the age of thirteen he succeeded to his grandfather's title and estates.

He was educated at Westminster; and on the death of the Lord Chancellor, he was left, under his grandfather's will, to the guardianship of his mother, Mrs. Harcourt; of his step-grandmother, the dowager Viscountess Harcourt; of his uncle, Sir John Evelyn; and of Mr. Rock.

In the year 1730, being then sixteen years old, Lord Harcourt was sent by his guardians to complete his education abroad, under the charge of Mr. Bowman. He was abroad for four years, and returned to England in the year 1734, for his coming of age.

The following letters from his Tutor, Mr. Bowman, to Lady Harcourt, and from himself to his sister, afford a very accurate view of the style of education then considered necessary for a young nobleman :—

*“Bourges, October 3rd, 1730.*

“MADAM,—After having made all necessary provision for answering your Ladyship’s intentions of my Lord’s passing the winter here, we began, on the 17th of September, a tour through those parts in our neighbourhood, which probably his Lordship may not have an opportunity of visitinge afterwards. With some diligence we have employed fifteen days in seeing Bourbon, Moulins, Riom, Clermont, and other places of less note, in our way through the two adjacent provinces of Bourbounois, and the lower Auvergne, which (for its extent) is among the finest spots in Europe. By the lateness of the season, his Lordship’s expectations have only been disappointed in not seeing the vintage where ever he went in its usual time. . . .

“Upon our return, we have the mortification to find that a fire which threatened the whole town has consumed twenty-five or thirty houses; and that one Mr. Creswell, a gentleman near fifty, formerly Member of Parliament, who for these

four years has coursed through the whole provinces of France, with one Mrs. Smith, called his niece, resolves to pass this winter at Bourges, as he did the last at Orleans. We are strangers to his conduct and misfortunes at home ; but, having run into indiscretions abroad to the prejudice of his character, his Lordship from his own honour, vertue, and applications, apprehends his company being improper for a young nobleman ; and, therefore, though he arrived the 8th of September, his Lordship neither has nor will visit him, till better informed or otherwise directed.

“Whatever be the gentleman’s history, by his equipage it appears that he travels meerly for his diversion, as formerly he lived for his pleasure. His fair companion is perfectly well educated, as far as foreigners may judge by her behaviour and appearance. But he, travelling without any female attendance, has on many occasions lost her the respect due to an English gentlewoman of family. . . .

“He cannot help complaining and expressing great surprise, I find, at my Lord’s neglect. But hitherto his Lordship has accounted for it to his friends, by his firm purpose here of improving only by French company, and men of letters ; and therefore hopes his countrymen will for some time excuse him from some ceremonies, when their designs abroad are not the same with his own.

"As I am certain my Lord on all occasions will have your Ladyship's satisfaction and his own interests very much at heart, so I hope your Ladyship will be pleased to pardon such particular accounts of everything that regards his welfare, from one who has no other business abroad but to consult both to the utmost of his power. His Lordship now loves reading and knowledge, and measures his diversions by his education and health, is much esteemed every where, and has taken the beginnings of a gentle considerate turn of mind, which at last I am hopefull will prove intirely to your satisfaction; and, therefor, to cultivate his good dispositions for some time longer, it seems necessary to use the utmost reserve. . . .

"Madam, I am with the greatest respect,

"Your Ladyship's most obedient, humble servant,

"WALTER BOWMAN.

"*To the Right Honorable the Lady Viscountess*

*Harcourt, at Cockthorp, near Witney,*

*Oxfordshire.—Pour l'Angleterre."*

"*Angers, Saturday, October 27th, 1731.*

"MADAM,—My Lord Harcourt having wrote to your Ladyship both by the Post and by Mr. Elliot, I should not now trouble your Ladyship, were it not that my Lord had had three fitts of a quartan ague; but having miss'd the fourth

yesterday, in all appearance it is stopt by the Barke. But for your Ladyship's further satisfaction, allow me the honour of giving you all the particulars of his indisposition. On Thursday the 11th, returning from the country, where we had been to examine the remains of a Roman camp, his Lordship first complained of a headach; but being perfectly well next morning, he continued his exercises till next Sunday, when he found himself sick at the stomach, but without any symptom of fever. . . .

"But on Wednesday the 17th, having exposed his person too much to the cold in dressing, he chill'd his blood so much, that he fell a trembling as he satt down to dinner. This fitt was in all the forms; but gentle, and went off with a plentiful sweat. Next morning, the Physician thought fitt to order his Lordship to be bled according to the French practice, and the day thereafter I insisted upon his being vomited according to the English method; accordingly he prescribed his Lordship fourty grains of Epicacoana, which operated but very gently. On Saturday the 20th, precisely at the same hour, the second regular fitt returned more violent than the first, and kept his Lordship from twixt twelve and one to near two next morning, without the least sweating. On Sunday morning, after resting from the second fitt, having begun with the barke, and continued

it at every interval of four hours, we expected that possibly the next return might be prevented. But on Tuesday the 23rd, the third fitt came four hours later than the other two, so extremely gentle that he bore it with great ease, without goeing to bed. Haveing kept close, and still used the barke, his Lordship had nothing like it yesterday, so that in appearance it is all over for this time; as his Lordship has lost but little of his vigour and appetite, it is to be hoped that a little air moderately taken in walking, or a horseback, with some continuance of the barke, and the use of bitters afterwards, may so far rectify his Lordship's blood as to prevent its returning. . . .

"Permitt me further to acquaint your Ladyship that while we lived at Bourges in very feverish times, our autumnal health in some measure seemed oweing to constant summer bathing, which here was impracticable by the dangers of the Maine, and distance of the Loire. All the well and pitt water of the place comeing from the blew slate, we are obliged to drink the Loire water, brought up in boats two miles, and afterwards but ill kept, which, with the hott wines of this country, is a very sensible disadvantage to sober strangers.

"His Lordship has been but little a shooting this season, and till within this month, has not

used his dancing master all the summer ; nor since beginning again to dance, has his Lordship gone to the *manège* 'till nine in the morning, after dancing, fencing, and breakfast. But within these two months, when all the company went into the country, and we have had no assemblies, his Lordship's greatest amusements have been visiting his friends in the country, sometimes walking, or playing at Tennis of an evening. The latter may have contributed to heat his blood, though he allways declared that he found himself more healthy and vigorous than ordinary. . . .

"His Lordship has finished eight volumes of Rapin's "History of England," in French, and I hope will be able to finish also the full history of France this winter. For his reading here has chiefly consisted in history. Your Ladyship may be informed of my Lord's improvements from some more impartial judges ; but altogether I'll venture to say, that his Lordship hitherto has the advantage of other young gentlemen of his age, which he may easily maintain by a continued pursuit of knowledge ; and I hope fortune will so far favour your Ladyship's very obliging friendship for his Lordship, as he may be enabled to travel. We have at Angers for a few days, my Lord James Cavendish, my Lord Tillemore, Mr. Jennison, Member of Parliament for Northumberland, and Mr. Batville, a Welsh gentleman.



... But my Lord Salisbury has been fixed here more than this month, and, being lodged next door, eats with my Lord Harcourt. Mr. King stays here this winter, and is now in the same house with us. We expect Sir Thomas Twisden from Blois; and beyond these, I believe we shall scarce extend our table company. We have had sight of ten Germans this autumn, whereof severals stay the winter, so that Angers is soon like to be as much frequented by strangers as formerly. My Lord prays his dutifull respects to your Ladyship.

“Madam, I am with the greatest respect,  
“Your Ladyship’s most obedient, humble servant,  
“WALTER BOWMAN.”

“*Montpelier, August 20th, 1732.*”

“MADAM,—We have passt our time agreeably here durement the violence of the heats; and hoping they are now abated, to-day, after dinner, we propose setting out for Aix in Provence, by Nismes and Arles, expecting to be at Marseilles by the 10th of September. . . .

“Allow me the honour of further acquainting your Ladyship that I am well informed the number of the English at Geneva amounts at present to thirty, whereof the chief are my Lord Rockingham, and my Lord Stanhope, both noblemen of excellent character, whereof the first only



stays the winter there. After leaving Angers, I humbly conceive it may be judged improper to winter among so many countrymen; nor have we any method of avoiding it, but either by staying in France, or going into Italy. Although my Lord indulge his curiosity of seeing Burgundy and Franche-Comte, yet we can be at Geneva by the beginning of November, and consequently in time for passing the mountains. By divideing in that case the months of December, January, and February 'twixt the Court of Turin and Milan, my Lord will be sure of passing the winter amongst better company, and of being master to move for Tuscany as early in the spring as may be necessary.

"On my Lord Essex's account, it may be presumed that more English than usual will stay at Turin. But the greatest inconvenience to be apprehended, is that perhaps we may in that case exceed your Ladyship's allowances, whereas we are sure of keeping within measure on this side of the Alps. But in all cases, I shall endeavour to conform our measures to the opinion of my Lord's friends, and to your Ladyship's commands in particular. My Lord is in perfect health, and pays his duty to your Ladyship.

"I am, with the greatest respect,

"Your Ladyship's most obedient, humble servant,

"WALTER BOWMAN."

*"Turin, Nov. 4, 1732.*

"MADAM,—At the same time that I have the honour of acquainting your Ladyship of my Lord's perfect health and arrival in this country, I am sorry that the old King's death has disappointed our designs; the Court upon that occasion having gone into the deepest mourning, and suspended all assemblies and diversions whatsoever. We made our journey during the only interval of fair weather; and my Lord being received with great civility by my Lord Essex, we flatter'd ourselves in hopes of an happy winter, when all of a sudden this unexpected event has defeated every prospect of pleasure or improvement in this place.

"Nothing can be more formal, more starched, nor more melancholy, than these modes of Spanish mourning, which here for the last time are to be severely observed for a whole year. My Lord Essex having presented us to the Ambassador of France and his Lady (the late Lord Whitworth's widow), it may not be improper in this town, dear as it is, to pass some time more under our disappointment, in order to see what may be curious, and to improve my Lord's acquaintance amongst the ambassadors, in order, if possible, to procure recommendations to other places. For at any rate, till the great rains are over, we cannot without great trouble remove further into the country. . . .

“It is my humble advice to his Lordship to remove next to Milan, where is to be a good opera for the Carneval, and where scarce any English will stop except for a little on their way to Venice. From Milan, if we remove in the beginning of Lent, we shall be able to see Genoa, Parma, and Modena, in our way to Florence in the spring, and, employing the summer in Tuscany, be ready in the autumn to make our journey to Naples; in order, afterwards, to pass the winter at Rome, which, if we leave after Lent, there will be time for us to see all in our way to Venice at the Ascension; and, eight months afterwards, for our return through Germany and the Low Countries, as Sir John Evelyn proposed, against the time my Lord shall be of age; when your Ladyship has ordered his return. This plan I beg leave to submit to your Ladyship’s examination, as the most comprehensive of all shows, and the most convenient for us. . . .

“We left Lyons the 8th of October, and coming to Grenoble the 9th, staid there but one day, the company being all out at vintage. From thence, taking a turn among the mountains, lay one night at the Great Chartreux, where the General of that Order resides. Thence cutting across the mountains, we joined our chaise on the high road, and lay at Chamberry in Savoy the 12th, and arrived at Geneva the 14th. . . .

"At Geneva my Lord stayed one week, where his Lordship was conducted by one of the chief magistrates and ingeneers of the place through the curious mines of their new fortifications, which were enlightened for that purpose. On the 22nd we left Geneva, and in seven continued days' journey came here the 28th. . . .

"Madam, I am with the greatest respect,  
"Your Ladyship's most obedient, humble servant,

"WALTER BOWMAN.

"My Lady Essex, after being brought to bed of a son, is in a fine way of recovery."

*"Genoa, February 18, 1733.*

"MADAM,—Since I had the honour of acquainting your Ladyship with our arrival in Italy, and Sir John Evelyn with our removal to Milan, I have found no occasion for writeing till now. . . .

"His Lordship's time at Milan was divided 'twixt study, and assembly, and operas, in such a manner as I flatter myself your Ladyship would be pleased to approve. His Lordship confined himself to a few friends; but might have made more acquaintances among the Italiens if he had spoke the language, or in any manner liked play. But as his Lordship now can answer to Italian civilities, he proposes every where seeing company, as well as pictures, palaces, and churches. For my own part, I know no better method for pre-

serving a youth from the low vices of our countrymen in Italy, than by throwing him directly amongst people of quality. Here the Countess of Boromée from Milan, though originally of the Grillo family of this place, has shown his Lordship particular civilities. His Lordship has also been recommended to the Marchioness Imperiali.

“The same method we shal use in all other towns where any stay is necessary; this being absolutely requisite for his Lordship’s improvement and credit; I hope his Lordship will answer your Ladyship’s expectations by doeing honour to his country in general, and to his family in particular. Our stay in places depending on our acquaintances, and curiosities to be seen, we cannot yet fix our departure from hence; but I believe about the beginning of March your Ladyship may expect to hear of us again in Lombardy, at Parma, where his Lordship will pay his court to Don Carlos. . . .”

It has been noted in a former volume, that when Lord Chancellor Harcourt succeeded to his family estates, he found them curtailed almost to the verge of ruin. The part his ancestors had taken in the Civil Wars, and the enterprises of Sir Robert

Harcourt in the reign of James the First, had led to this consummation.

The industry of the Chancellor to a great extent enabled him to retrieve his lost patrimony. The following letter addressed to the young Lord Harcourt, then seventeen years old, by his guardian and adviser, Mr. Rock, shews the condition of affairs soon after the Chancellor's death.

The subject of this memoir, who held good offices during the greater part of his life, was enabled still further to recruit the family fortunes. It must of course be remembered that the value of money was very different in those days.

Mr. S. Rock to Viscount Harcourt :—

*“Staple Inne, Feb. 3, 1731.*

“MY DEAREST LORD,—I rece'd the hon<sup>r</sup> of yo<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>ps</sup> letter, which I would have sooner acknowledg'd, but that I was desirous to answer yo<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>ps</sup> questions as particularly as may be, and it is an exceeding great pleasure to me that yo<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>p</sup> is so happily dispos'd to look into yo<sup>r</sup> own affairs.

	<i>Per Annum.</i>		
	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
"Yo <sup>r</sup> Lord <sup>ps</sup> Estate in possession is P. ann. . . . .	532	5	4
"The Trust Estate which is sub- ject to the paym <sup>t</sup> of the for- tunes . . . . .	2113	7	6
"Lady Harcourt's Joynture is P. ann. 1220 <sup>l</sup> 18 <sup>s</sup> 5 <sup>d</sup> , reckoning Ca- vendish Square House at 300 <sup>c</sup> a year. But because 200 <sup>c</sup> a year, part of the yearly Joynture of 1220 <sup>c</sup> 18 <sup>s</sup> 5 <sup>d</sup> , is a rent-charge is- suing out of the Trust Estate, my Lady's Joynture when it falls to my Lord will be only P. ann. . . . .	1020	18	5
"And the Trust Estate will be also eas'd of the rent-charge of 200 <sup>l</sup> now payable to my Lady.			
"Mr <sup>s</sup> . Harcourt's Joynture P. ann. .	568	6	6
"Total yearly value of the whole Estate exclusive of the Rever- sions . . . . .	4234	17	9

"The yearly value of Estates in  
Stanton Harcourt, Newnham,  
Coggs, and West Hildesley,  
which are held by Copy of

Court roll, or by Leases for years determinable on lives, as near as I can judge of their value, and I beleive I am pretty near it. . . . . 675 11 10

“The yearly value of an Estate in Hardwick, and anoth<sup>r</sup> in Northmoor, held by Lease for years det, &c., and now in Joynture to Lady Harcourt and M<sup>rs</sup>. Harcourt . . . . . 4 0 0

“Total yearly value of the whole Estate in Possession and Reversion . . . . . 4914 9 7

“In the Southsea Stock and Annuities 9,000; the interest of which Lady Harcourt is to have for her life, and which is already computed to make up her Joynture 1220<sup>l</sup> 18<sup>s</sup> 5<sup>d</sup> a-year.

£ s. d.

“The Trust Estate as above computed is p. ann. . . . . 2113 7 6

“Out of which is p<sup>d</sup> yearly to Lady Harcourt . . . . . £200

“To y<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>ps</sup> two Sisters . . . . . 240 } 490 0 0

“To myself . . . . . 50 }

“Rem<sup>r</sup> of the Trust Estate out of which the portions are to be rais’d is P. ann. . . . . 1623 7 6



“Note, the 1623<sup>c</sup> 7<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup> P. ann. must bear the Land-tax, repairs, and all other incidents, as if it was 2113<sup>c</sup> 7<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup> a-year; for the 490<sup>c</sup> p<sup>d</sup> y<sup>r</sup>arly out of the Trust Estate, is p<sup>d</sup> clear of Taxes or other deductions.

“An account of what money has been paid since my Lord’s death :—

	£	s.	d.
“Legacys . . . . .	1380	0	0
“Funeral charges about . . . . .	200	0	0
“Debts about . . . . .	1590	14	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
“Buildings and repairs begun by my Lord, and carrying on at his death . . . . .	870	11	4
“To Mr. Collier, L <sup>y</sup> Harcourt’s Sol <sup>r</sup> , to Mr. Appleby, Sol <sup>r</sup> for yo <sup>r</sup> Lord <sup>p</sup> , M <sup>rs</sup> . Harcourt, Miss Betty, Sr John Evelyn, and myself, and to Mr. Powell . . . . .	366	18	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
“Four y <sup>r</sup> ars annuities to Lady Harc <sup>t</sup> , yo <sup>r</sup> 2 Sistors and mys’lf .	1960	0	0
“Paid into Chancery towards the portions . . . . .	649	8	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<u>7017</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>
“There has been also paid on several acc <sup>ts</sup> , w <sup>ch</sup> cannot be particu- lariz’d in a letter, since my Lord’s death, about . . . . .	1744	5	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
“P <sup>d</sup> in all about . . . . .	<u>8761</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>2<math>\frac{3}{4}</math></u>

“I have been so unfortunate as to have had a farm called Lows, at Newnham, in hand for four years, which of necessity runs away with a great deal of money, and money has been lost every year by that farm, by Ned Clark’s ill-managmt of it. But I went down there last holidays, and have lett it to a good tent. And at y<sup>e</sup> same time I also lett a farm at Coggs, which was in hand, and had been for two y<sup>rs</sup>, so that at present there is only Sessions’s farm in Stanton Harcourt, w<sup>ch</sup> is in hand; and I am not quite without hopes of l’tting itt, though good ten<sup>ts</sup> are exceeding scarce. All the tenants at Newnham are very good, except Ned Clarke, and he is behind for r<sup>nt</sup> due at Ladyday last 280<sup>c</sup> 5<sup>s</sup> 9½<sup>d</sup>. At Stanton Harcourt and Coggs, there has been very bad crops for two or three years last past, which has caus’d all the ten<sup>ts</sup> there to pay their rents extreamly ill, and there is due from those tenants at Ladyday last for rent about 700<sup>l</sup>; I mean belonging to the Trust Estate. Some of the rents of the Estate in yo<sup>r</sup> own possession due at Lady-day 1731, are still unp<sup>d</sup>. I have since my Lord’s death rece’d out of that Estate—

	£	s.	d.
	1506	11	7½
“And I have paid . . . . .	1502	13	8
“In my hands on that acc <sup>t</sup> .	<u>3 17 11½</u>		

“But I hope by the time yo<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>ps</sup> bill for 100<sup>l</sup> reaches me, I shall have the like sune sent me by M<sup>r</sup>. Bedw’ll. But be that as it will, the bill shall be paid when it arrives. There are two bills on yo<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>ps</sup> account w<sup>ch</sup> are still unpaid, and which I have not yet been able to pay ; they are Sawyer the taylor’s bill, and Bell’s bill for linnen ; I have not y<sup>e</sup> bills at my chambers, but I think Sawyer’s is about 60<sup>l</sup>, and Bell’s about 20<sup>l</sup>.

“And now, my dearest Lord, I fear I have quite tir’d you out ; and yet I must go on a little furth’r. I sent the gold watch and chain by Lady Lambert, who would leave them with M<sup>r</sup>. Arbuthnott, with directions to him to forward the watch, &c. to yo<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>p</sup>. I wish I had rece’d yo<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>ps</sup> last letter before I had sent y<sup>r</sup> other things, that I might also have s’nt the tweezer yo<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>p</sup> mentions. Indeed, my L<sup>d</sup>, I had forgot it, till I had yo<sup>r</sup> last letter ; and on enquiring after it, I found M<sup>r</sup>. Cox had it, and it shall be sent by the first opportunity. Lady Harcourt tells me she has acquainted yo<sup>r</sup> Lordship with her intentions to lend yo<sup>r</sup> Lordship as much money as you shall want in order to yo<sup>r</sup> travelling, which will free you from all difficulties, and make you extremely happy. The Game is pretty well secured at Newnham and Stanton Harcourt, but Coggs lyes so near that abominable town of Witney, that it suffers at Coggs ; and yet M<sup>r</sup>. Beeston

pinches y<sup>e</sup> rogues very often. One fellow I got a warrant for in Oct<sup>r</sup> last, who is a great pocher, and he is run quite away ; so that I hope by degrees to get rid of them. Suffer me, my dearest Lord, to make this letter a little longer by saying, and that most truly, that my wife and family joyn with me in humble duty, and the sincerest services to yo<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>p</sup>. I hope I shall soon have the pleasure to hear from you. If I have not sufficiently explain'd my meaning in the short state of y<sup>e</sup> matter mention'd above, be pleased to let me know, and I will make it more plain. 'Twas most agreeable news to me that yo<sup>r</sup> ague had done you service, and that you have such entertaining company at Angiers. I hope the English ladies are as handsome and polite as the French.

"I am with the uttmost duty, my dear Lord,

"Yo<sup>r</sup> L<sup>ps</sup> most obedient Serv<sup>t</sup>,

"S. ROCK."

From Lord Harcourt to his Sister :—

"*Bourges, Feb. 24, 1730.*

"DEAR SISTER,— . . . . I can't say that we passed the last Carnaval entirely to our satisfaction, which I believe is chiefly owing to the poverty of the gentry in these parts, whose incomes will scarce allow them to give balls. I own, indeed, that since the Lent is began, we have lived

better than we have yet done since we have been at Bourges; for as we have had a deal of snow lately, the county people have killed vast quantities of game, such as partridges and hares, a great many of which have fallen into our hands at twopence and threepence a-piece. For you know very well that these superstitious wretches think that their souls are purified by abstaining from flesh, as unfallible means for purchasing Paradise at a cheap rate. . . .

“I am, dear Sister,

“Your most loving brother, and humble servant,

“HARCOURT.

“Duty to Lady Harcourt, humble service to Mrs. and Miss Vernon, and remember me to Messrs. Rock, Cole, and Blow, and Mr. Cox, and tell him that in about eight months time I think of sending over some brace of red partridges, which are very common in these parts, and much more beautifull, better, and bigger than the other sort. Excuse this scroll, for the post stays for my letter.”

Here follows a series of letters in French to his sister, from which I give a few extracts. They were evidently written for the sake of practice in the language, his know-

ledge of which appears at this time to have been somewhat elementary :—

*“ Novembre le 4<sup>o</sup>, 1730.*

“MA CHERE SŒUR,— . . . . Par un lettre qui j'ai reçu depuis peu d'Angleterre on me mandoit que vous aviez eu une balle, qui j'ose dire fut très joli, et que le Comte de Jersey fut un de votre partie. Je suis ravi que vous avez un gout si bon, car assurément il est un seigneur toute a fait un homme de qualité, qui par sa politique a gagné les cœurs des dames, et l'estime des hommes. Je seray charmé de savoir les particularités de votre balle, et vous pouvez contée, que si j'avais eu les ailes de Mercure j'auray fuit a un de votre partie incognito.

“Il y a quelque tems depuis nous sommes arrivée d'Aubigny, ou demeure Madame la Duchesse de Portsmouth, qui était maitresse de Charles Second, et grande mere de Monsieur le Duc de Richmond ; c'est une dame qui assurément est servi en princess, soit par le nombre de ses domestiques, que par la magnificence qui regnit par toute sa maison, et par la cour que tout le voisinage lui font, cependant, quoique elle a quatre vingt cinq ans, elle a tout l'esprit imaginable, extrêmement viffe elle lit parfaitement bien sans des lunettes, et d'un si grande attention quelle joueroit quatre heures de suite. Enfin elle a tous les

agremens qui peuvent rendre la vieillesse heureux elle nous a reçue gracieusement, tachant toujours de nous faire plaisir, elle nous a pressé autant de rester quelque tems avec elle, que nous avons beaucoup de peine de partir, et elle nous a promis, que si nous reviendrons encore, d'envoyer son carosse pour nous, qui est une faveur tres particulier en France, enfin elle nous a reçue si magnifiquement, et expressoit une si grande amitié pour tous les Anglois, que je suis sure que tous ceux qui la connoissent doivent lui rendre la même justice.

“Je suis, ma chere Sœur,

“Votre cher frère et tres humble Serviteur,

“d'HARCOURT.”.

*“Angers, le 23 d'Aout.*

“... A Tours nous trouvames plusieurs de nos Messieurs Anglois qui n'y font pas beaucoup d'honneur à leur patrie, je vous assure qu'ils ont grand besoin de la politesse françoise, afin de les rendre un peu plus dignes de la conversation avec le genre humain. ....

“Mademoiselle Paget a profité beaucoup de son sejour en France, elle a reuni parfaitement bien quelques petits agrements des Françoises avec la douceur et toutes les belles qualités des Angloises ; ainsy sans vouloir faire tort aux Angloises ni aux Françoises, je pourrois bien dire qu'elle

promette infiniment de faire la plus belle dame qu'on puisse voir d'aucun part. . . .

*"Bourges, le 28 d'Aout.*

"Quoique vous ne contez par d'aller a Sudbury chez Mr. Vernon <sup>a</sup> cette année, néanmoins je crois que vous passeriez votre tems assez agreablement parmi vos voisines de campagne, et en prenante le bel exercice, c'est a dire de montée a cheval, souvant, et lorsque les courses d'Oxford viendront, vous ne manquerez pas un divertissement assez agreable pendant une semaine, la vous verriez les beautés champêtres, parees de tous les ornements q'un gout de campagne et le travail de leurs mains leur peussent fournir pendant l'autre partie de l'année. . . .

"La Reine de France (comme on dit icy, car comme la ville est paresseuse tout le monde icy sont des menteurs) est accouché d'un duc d'Anjou, car c'est la titre du second fils du Roy de France ; il y a deja trois filles et deux fills et c'est à esperer qu'on ne manquera pas une famille nombreuse, puisque le Roy n'a que vingt un ou vingt deux ans. . . .

*"Angers, July the 7th.*

"DEAR SISTER,— . . . If I thought not to tire you, I would give you a description of our pre-

<sup>a</sup> Mr. Vernon, afterwards Lord Vernon, married Miss Martha Harcourt, Lord Harcourt's younger sister, as his third wife.



sent way of liveing, which is much the same as it was at Bourges, barring the academical exercises. My fencing master calls me at half an hour after five, and stays with me till six ; and at six I put my boots on, make ready for the Academy, where I always ride till about half an hour after eight. I then come home, breakfast, and read mathematicks till about ten ; then I take a lesson upon the German flute ; after which I read history or something else till dinner-time, which is commonly at one o'clock ; we seldom sett above an hour, which is long enough for any one but a French man. I read a little after dinner, dress, and go into company, play my parts of quadrille, walk, come home to supper, sit a little after supper, and in short go to bed about eleven o'clock. The heat of the present season, and the additional exercises of riding and fencing, have tempted me to defer dancing till the heat is a little passed. . . ."

*"Sienna, Sept. 2, N.S., 1733.*

"DEAR SISTER,—. . . Although we have not been here above eight days, I have already had the pleasure of waiting upon the fairest of the sex in the place, who are more numerous and beautiful than in any other place I have yet seen ; very polite to strangers, as indeed they ought to be, the gentlemen of their own country being by far the oddest, unaccountable creatures that can pos-

sibly be seen. Among other fair ones, there are four so very beautyfull, that in my mind nothing can excell them. I believe what setts them off still to a greater advantage, is their genteel way of dressing their heads, in which (begging pardon) the English ladys do not excell. Here, instead of having odd out-of-the-way caps, their hair drawn so tite as almost pulled up by the roots, they scarce wear any thing upon their heads; they have a pretty four top or toupet, on each side they curl their hair in order to sett off their faces more advantageously, and behind they leave it something longer, hanging in easy and gentle buckles. I hope you will excuse this episode upon the ladys of Sienna and their dress, concerning which I shall have one time or other the honour of telling you my sentiments. . . .”

*“ Toulouse, July the 7th, N.S.*

“ . . . His Grace the Duke of Portland arrived here two days ago, in his way from Italy to Paris. He is a young man of very good sence, extreamly polite and good-natured. . . .”

*“ Milan, Jan. the 24th, N.S.*

“ . . . As this is what we call Carnaval time, our chiefest amusement here is operas, which indeed are very fine in most parts of Italy. As musick is the predominant passion in Italy at

present, so the Italians pay their musicians very well, which causes an emulation among them; by which reason so many of them arrive to a vast perfection. Although 'tis generally thought that we pay them in England more than in any other country, nevertheless, considering the length of the journey, the risques they run of not being liked when they arrive here, &c., I say all these things well considered, I don't think the pay of the English in proportion is so good as that of Italy. The English have quite lost their reputation of being judges in musick ever since the bad reception Bernachi met with in England; and although his voice may be perhaps a little worn out, nevertheless, to show how much he is esteemed in this country, for his good taste, skill, and judgement in musick, he is called the Father of musick, which title he certainly well deserves, since 'tis he that has given the fine taste of musick (as the Italians express themselves) to the famous Faranelli, Caresteni, &c. And on the other hand, to show the difference of the Italian and English taste, Seneseno, who is so much admired in England, would not be able to get his bread in this country. . . ."

At the end of the year 1734, Lord Harcourt returned to England, and attained his majority.

In May of the following year, 1735, he was appointed Lord of the Bedchamber to King George the Second; and in the month of October of the same year he was married to Rebecca, only daughter and heir of Charles Samborne Le Bas, of Pipwell Abbey, in Northamptonshire, by his wife, Mary, daughter and co-heir of Sir Samuel Moyer<sup>b</sup>, Bart., of Pilsey Hall, in Essex.

The following letter to his wife, from Lord Harcourt, in November, 1737, shews that the ordinary historical version of Queen Caroline's illness is not correct. History tells us that George the Second, who had for

<sup>b</sup> I have found the following note in Lord Harcourt's handwriting:—

“Sir Samuel Moyer left three daughters, the two eldest, Mrs. Pauncefort and Mrs. Lebas, died several years ago; the youngest, Mrs. Jenyns, died about three years ago. Lady Harcourt's mother was Mrs. Lebas. Lady Harcourt was heir at law to Mrs. Jenyns.

“Mr. Tuffnell, of Langley, near Chelmsford, in Essex, is supposed to be the son of John Tuffnell, who was a joint trustee with Sir Samuel Moyer.

“He has a house in Albemarle-street, the fourth on the right-hand from Piccadilly. He is in France, and not expected to return till at Lady-day, 1755; his wife, and son, John Joliffe Tuffnell, who is a Member of Parliament, are at Langley, in Essex.”

Mrs. Jenyns was also maternally related to Lord Harcourt.

fourteen years been acquainted with the Queen's dangerous affliction, had promised never to mention it; but that at last he thought it his duty to send for a surgeon, in spite of the Queen's dislike to the proceeding; he was at once told by the surgeon that he had put off sending for him till it was too late.

*“ Cavendish-square, Saturday morning.*

“MY DEAR JEWELL,—I had a very easy and safe journey to town, where I arrived about three o'clock, notwithstanding your little Ladyship detained me at Cockthorp till past seven; so that, allowing the time lost by changing horses, I don't reckon that I was above seven hours in performing the whole journey.

“At every town I came to I expected to find news of the Queen's death. However, I had the pleasure of being disappointed. As soon as I could get my cloaths on, away I went to St. James' to enquire after her Majesty's health; and there (as I really expected) I found every body in the greatest affliction that is possible to be expressed. But the bed-chamber women, the maids of honour, &c., from whom I was in hopes of gathering a little information, have taken it into their heads to look so extravagantly wise, and to screw up

their countenances in such a manner, that 'tis scarce possible to screw an answer out of them, so that I left them just as wise as I found them. However, remembering that I was to do myself the pleasure of writing to you by the first post, and that you might very reasonably expect a little news, I went immediately from St. James' to the Duke of Richmond's, not without a design of eating what I could get, and succeeded extremely well. The dinner fairly over, and the glasses upon the table, I began (you may easily guess) to be very inquisitive; and his Grace, with his usual good-nature, satisfied my curiosity to the utmost of his knowledge.

"I must begin by acquainting you that the Queen was taken ill on last Wednesday sen'night, when most people imagined that it was her old distemper, the gout; but how they were deceived you shall presently hear. Her pain by that time was so great, that His Majesty, who all along suspected that the gout was not her distemper, insisted upon her being examined by Mr. Ranby the surgeon, who to his very great surprise found a hardness upon her belly, and that of a very long standing. She had concealed it as long as it was possible, but could bear it no longer; in short, it proved to be a rupture, and that of so long a standing as twenty years at least. However, Ranby did not care to do anything to it till

he had given an account of it to the physicians and surgeons that waited in the next room ; and they, after some consultation, ordered Ranby to apply something to it for that night, and they might see how to proceed the next morning.

“When the surgeon examined it the next morning, he found the part affected as black as a hat, with all the signs of a mortification ; he thereupon, without loss of time, opened the place, and cut and hacked away till he came to her very bowells, which he also apprehended to be in the greatest danger ; and the doctors and surgeons agreed that she had but few hours to live. However, in this sad condition, cut allmost to pieces, hath the poor woman laid ever since ; which is the more surprising, as nothing passeth through her, though some people give out the contrary, and that she is upon the mending hand, which I wish I could credit. But am apprehensive every minute of hearing of her death ; if she hath any chance of surviving, it is in the greatness of her spirits, which are not in the least dejected, notwithstanding the dreadful operations she hath undergone.

“The Archbishop of Canterbury hath been twice sent for by His Majesty to attend the Queen ; and hath administered the Sacrament to them both, so that she is at present entirely resigned to the decrees of fate.

“The King attends her from morning to night,



without stirring out of her room, and sees her take everything, and assists at every operation. Everybody does him the justice to think him sincerely afflicted, as certainly he ought to be for so good a wife. All her poor children are in the most melancholy situation, sometimes elated with hopes, other times in the greatest despair. Every thing hath so melancholy an aspect, that was it not decency that detained me here, I should soon quit this disagreeable place. If you continue your design of coming to town on Thursday, I fear it won't be in my power to attend you and Mrs. Jennens as I could wish. However, if there should be any alteration in Her Majesty's illness between this and Tuesday or Wednesday, I shall not fail being with you, though it be the night before you set out.

“If you should be obliged to come without me, remember the night before you set out, to send for the keys of the grounds we came through this time two year, when we avoided Kingston hill, which is the only piece of bad ground between this and Cockthorp. If you set out from Cockthorp by eight or nine in the morning 'tis time enough; and if you don't dine by the way, then ten o'clock is time enough; but then you must give the horses a little hay about half way between Cockthorp and Henley. The charriot and the mares must set out the day before, and may go



to Newnham or to Dorchester the first day, the second day to Henley or Maidenhead, and the third to this place. I would advise you to send the coach horses with the charriot to the top of Kingston hill; and let the mares be led so far, then the rest of the journey will be very easy to them."

The following are extracts from letters of Lord Harcourt to his sister at this period :—

*"Tuesday, May 14, 1739.*

"DEAR SISTER,—The letter of the Duke of Richmond, which you enclosed in one of your own, was the more agreeable as procuring me the pleasure of hearing from you. Our journey down to Newnham<sup>c</sup> was performed very agreeably; and the fineness of the weather during our stay of three full days, which we made there, rendered the place entirely delightfull. What with our stay here, and the visit I propose making to my Lord Jersey at Middleton, I can't flatter myself with the satisfaction of seeing you till about this day sevensnight. . . ."

*"1740.*

"As there is no great probability of the wind changing soon, and consequently no likelihood

<sup>c</sup> There was only a small old Manor-house then in existence there.

of seeing his Majesty so soon as we desire, I have some thoughts of setting out to-morrow morning for Sussex. . . .

"As I propose being at Mr. Woodroffe's on Sunday next before dinner, I beg the favour of you to desire him to send a servant to meet me at the Road Lane Ale House, at the bottom of Hindhead, for the road from Charlton is very intricate over the heaths, and almost impossible to find without a guide. . . .

"I shall propose being in London on Tuesday morning at about one o'clock, for I ought to be at the opening of the Parliament."

*"Eslington, July 27, 1740.*

"DEAR SISTER,—We leave this place to-morrow morning, and return to Sir Harry's house in the Bishoprick of Durham, where we stay but one day, and then march homewards. We propose to see Mr. Duncombe's and Lord Carlisle's in our way to York, which will take us about three days ; and am in hopes that about five days more will carry us to Cockthorp, and allow us to see the places that lay in our road, which will be Lord Malton's and the Duke of Kingston's. Mr. Aislabie's<sup>d</sup> we saw in our way hither, and were extremely pleased with it, and much obliged to him for the reception we met with. We promised to

<sup>d</sup> Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1719.

take it on our way homewards ; but I believe it will be impossible, for we begin to be very impatient to see our little family. . . .

“Pray tell Lady Harcourt that we saw Sir Charles and Lady Vernon at Studley. Lady Lyddell and Sir Harry send their compliments. . .”

*“Tuesday morning, June 9th, 1741.*

“DEAR SISTER,—I did intend to have waited upon my Lady at Bushy this day, but the badness of the weather has obliged me to deferr my journey. If I can get a good day, I have some thoughts of bringing the little boy<sup>e</sup> with me, for I am sure it will entertain him very much. He begins to be a little more reconciled to his sister ; but he says that his mamma and sister are very lazy to lay a bed so much as they do in this fine weather ; however, it agrees extreamly well with them. If Lady Harcourt, Mrs. Vernon, or yourself should chance to come to Town, the Lady in the straw will be very glad to see you, for she is now allowed to chatter, and will in two or three days be able to talk scandall over a dish of tea. . . .

“I need not tell you that I am tired of London ; but I now think it less intollerable, because I can give a guess when I shall be able to leave it,

<sup>e</sup> George Simon, afterwards Viscount Nuneham.

which I could not do a week ago. Lord Euston is certainly to be married at last, they say in a fortnight; when it is over I shall believe it, but not sooner. . . .”

*“Hanover-square, June 26, 1741.*

“DEAR SISTER,— . . . To-morrow we propose to make a sort of Christian of our little girl, though she yet knows nothing of the matter. Had Lady Harcourt, Mrs. Vernon, and you been in Town, we should have done ourselves the honour of desiring your company. . . .”

On the 27th of June, 1743, Lord Harcourt accompanied King George the Second to the battle of Dettingen, in his capacity of Lord in Waiting. In 1745, thirteen Peers were commissioned to raise a regiment each for the protection of the kingdom, at the time of the rebellion in Scotland. Lord Harcourt was one of the number, and this led to the military rank which was subsequently conferred upon him.

The following letter was at this time addressed to his brother-in-law, Mr. George Venables Vernon, of Sudbury, in Derbyshire, who in 1744 married his sister Martha,

and was afterwards, May 1, 1762, created Lord Vernon :—

*“ Cockthorp, Nov. 1, 1747.*

“DEAR BROTHER,— . . . . You cannot conceive what a noise the Litchfield hunting meeting makes in Town, where people make no ceremony of treating the company as Jacobites.

“I was under no uneasyness or apprehension of your being there, for I love and honour you too much to think you capable of such an action. Everybody’s eyes were upon you, and his Majesty told me in a little sort of private conference that he was very glad you was not at that, for he must and ought to consider that company as his declared enemys; upon which I assured him that whatever ill-treatment you might have received from your former friend, you were, however, incapable of entertaining a disloyall sentiment, or of doing anything that had the appearance of disrespect towards him; besides which, I told him that in the time of the rebellion you had exerted yourself very much in behalf of his Majesty and his cause. I fancy the Litchfield meeting will be prosecuted, if proper and sufficient evidence can be obtained, for it argues weakness in a Government to allow itself to be insulted. If I was a real friend of the Jacobites, I should have wished my friends would have appeared at Darby, where

they might have done service, instead of exposing themselves to the ridicule of mankind, who will be at a loss to say whether they are greater fools or cowards.

"My wife desires her love to you and my sister, to whom I beg mine, and that you'll believe me to be

"Most affectionately yours,

"HARCOURT.

"I left London in high spirits upon our late good success at sea."

On the first of December, 1749, George the Second advanced Viscount Harcourt to the dignity of an Earldom, and bestowed upon him the additional titles of Viscount Nuneham, of Nuneham<sup>f</sup> Courtenay, and Earl Harcourt of Stanton Harcourt.

On the 20th of March, in the year 1751, Frederick, Prince of Wales, died; an event which made but little stir in the political world. At this time, Francis, Lord North, was governor to young Prince George of Wales, having been appointed to that office in 1750.

<sup>f</sup> At this time the spelling was altered from Newnham to Nuneham, to distinguish the place from others bearing the same name.

Mr. Pelham was then Prime Minister ; and not finding Lord North sufficiently malleable to his views, he obtained from the King the appointment of Lord Harcourt as governor to the young Prince. Hayter, Bishop of Norwich, was appointed preceptor ; Stone, sub-governor ; and Scott, sub-preceptor. The Pelhams hoped that Lord Harcourt's easy temper would admit of such views being instilled into the mind of the Prince of Wales, as might suit their projects.

For reasons which will hereafter appear, Lord Harcourt did not long retain the post of governor.

The friendship, however, of the King for Lord Harcourt, thus formed in his early years, though sometimes clouded through the ill offices of false friends, was of a very lasting nature, and was continued to his son after him.

The following letters were written at this time to Lord Harcourt by the Prince of Wales, and by his brother Edward, afterwards Duke of York.

The Prince of Wales was then thirteen years of age.

*"Saville House, June 20th, 1751.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—We went to-day to Kensington, where there were a great many people. We went into the King, who was very gracious to us; Lord Greenville, Lord Holderness, Lord Anson, and Admiral Rowley were presented. I desire you will let me know what I must do about Capt. Pye's horse; if we don't send soon for it, he will be gone to grass. I desire you will give my compliments to Lady Harcourt, Lord Newnam, Lady Betty, and Mr. Harcourt.

"I am your affectionate,

"GEORGE P."

*"Saville House, June 24, 1751.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—I believe Lord Albermarle set out as yesterday from Paris. It is said that Lord Fitzwilliams kiss'd hands yesterday as Lord of the Bedchamber, instead of Lord Holderness. We were last night out on horseback in Hide Park, where we saw the King walking by the Haw Haw. Brother Edward is very well, and has quite lost the marck of his fall, and desires his compliments to you and everybody.

"I am your affectionate,

"GEORGE P."



*"Saville House, June 29, 1751.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—I was very glad to hear this morning that you are all well. Sunday night young Mr. Selwin died. The Colonel and Mrs. Selwin are in great affliction; he is gone to Mr. Townshend near Winsor. I hope the family remains well. I beg my compliments to Lady Harcourt and all. Mama gives her compliments to you. I am very much surprised that the pistols are not made for Clermont.

"I am, your affectionate,

"GEORGE P."

*"Saville House, August 23, 1751.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—We agreed not to begin our letters with compliments, but to write of indifferent things. The King was yesterday at Cranbourn, and took Lord Albermarl, Lord Delwar, Lady Yarmouth, and Lady Pembroock, and ordered that this and Winsor Great Parck to be laid together, for there is but a pail between them.

"In my learning, I am in the second boock of Cæsar. In French, in Richard the Second's life, who was not a very good King. They were in hopes he would have made a good King; but they soon lost there hopes, for he loved flaterers, who are the greatest serpents a Court can have.

Pray give my compliments to Lady Harcourt and Mr. Harcourt, and am

“Your affectionate friend,

“GEORGE P.”

*“August 31st, 1751.”*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I received this morning your letter, which gave me a great deal of pleasure. I am sorry to hear you had had bad sport, and hope you will soon begin to talk of coming back. Claremont is quite recovered, and I intend to ride him Monday. We walk as often as the weather will permit, and have missed riding above four nights since you have been gone. We went yesterday at nine o'clock to Kew, where we stayed till three o'clock, which place was very pleasant. The Bishop of Norwich is but a little better, and dined to-day, for the first time since his illness, with us. He is very low spirited, which is but a very bad sign. We have got very forward with the second book of Cæsar, and the life of Henry the Fourth. I would not trouble you any longer, but remain

“Your affectionate friend,

“GEORGE P.”

“MY DEAR LORD,—I was glad yesterday to hear from you, and to know that you are all in perfect health. In a few days the shooting season

will begin. Sunday last the Duchess of Richmond died of a fever, and pleurisy in her side. What is very remarkable, that a few days before she died, her finger was opened, there was found the same sort of matter in her finger as was found in the late Duke's leg. There are five guardians: the Duke of Newcastle, Lord Albermal, Lord Cadogan, Lord Kildare, and Mr. Fox. All these were named by the late Duke in his will. The Duchess has altered but one thing; that is, that when the young ladies are fourteen, they should live with Lady Carolina Fox. This is all I have heard about her death; she is to be buried as to-morrow. Lady Albermal and Lady Caroline Fox.

"I remain, your affectionate,

"GEORGE P.

*"September 5th, 1751.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—We went to-day to Kensington, where there was very little company. Their is news come to-day from Paris to Monsieur de Mirepoix, to acquaint him of the Dauphiness is brought to bed of a son, and of Mr. de Mirepoix's being made a Duke, and Mr. de Pisieux having resigned his place of Secretary of State for foreign affairs; and that the Minister at the Hague has succeeded him. The Bishop of Norwich has been worse every day since Sunday, one

day in his foot, another in his hipp, another in his rist. I beg you will give my compliments to Lady Harcourt, Lord Newnham, Lady Betty, and Mr. Harcourt.

“I remain, your affectionate friend,

“GEORGE P.”

“*Sept. 10, 1751.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I received yesterday your letter of the 8th, which made me very happy to hear that you intend to come as to-day or to-morrow seven night. We have had very dry weather for some few days, but it has been very cold. I hope you have had good sport since I heard last from you; and hope in one sence that you will have but bad sport, for fear you should neglect your business, and so stay a day or two more than you intended. The Bishop of Norwich is but little better, and flatters himself of your company in the study. I beg you will give my compliments to Lady Harcourt, Lord Newnham, Lady Betty, and Mr. Harcourt.

“I remain, your affectionate friend,

“GEORGE P.”

“*Sept. 14, 1751.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I received your letter this morning, and was very glad to hear you intend to come on Wednesday next. I hear 'tis thought

that Captain Barnard has been married to Lady Pembroke before sold his commition. 'Tis said that when the Duke of Marlborough asked him why he had sold his troop, he answered, 'My Lord, you would thinck me very much in the right if I was to tell you my reason.' Pray give compliments to Lady Harcourt, Lord Newnham, and Lady Betty.

"I remain, your affectionate friend,

"GEORGE P."

*"Kew, October 24th, 1752.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—I was Saturday morning at a quarter before six in your room, for I took to be but a quarter before five. Yesterday as I was a going out on horseback, the Major told me he had seen the handsomest mare in the world. She belongs to Mr. Nassau. Lady Anne Hamilton, his daughter-in-law, came here to see the Lady Augusta; and Mr. Nassau's Postilion said that if I liked her, the groom had orders to leave her hear; but I thought it best not to take it till I heard from you. Now I will describe her to you as well as I can. She is a mare of six years old, fourteen and half, with a forreign as high as that of a stone horse, as quiet as a lamb. The groom did walk with a slack rain; the Major told me he had seen her walk, trot, and gallop vastly well. The groom told the Major that she had

never had anything but a Waimouth bit. The Major says he thinks her handsomer than the Duke of Newcastle's mare called Dayry Maid. Pray make my compliments to Lady Harcourt, Lord Newnham, Lady Betty, and Mr. Harcourt.

"I am, my dear Lord, your affectionate,  
"GEORGE P."

*"Saville House, Oct. 31, 1752.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—There was not one of us sorry at coming to London; for the weather was so bad for three or four last days, that none of could go out. I went yesterday and to-day to the Riding House. Mr. Durell says I have not at all forgot. I have both days rod Plesant, Fidèle, and Huzar, who goes if possible ruffer than ever. I hear I am to ride Marechal in less than a fortnight. If to-morrow should prove a fine day, I shall ride Peggy for the first time. Brother Edward makes his compliments to you, and will write to you on Thursdy. Pray make my compliments to Lady Harcourt, Lord Newnham, Lady Betty, and Mr. Harcourt.

"I am, my dear Lord, your affectionate,  
"GEORGE P."

The following ten letters were written by Prince Edward, afterwards Duke of York,

to Lord Harcourt, during the time the latter was governor to the Prince of Wales :—

*“Saville House, Saturday, 9 o'clock at night,*

*“June 22nd, 1751.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I flatter myself it will give you great pleasure to hear that I am in good health. I go on very well with my Latin, as well as the history. I read this morning part of the life of King John, and must say, that though a King, he was a very sad fellow in private as well as publick life. We have had nice rides every time, litle or no dust, and I hear that the bay mare's knees are much better. I hope you and Lady Harcourt are well, and all there. I long for your return ; and remain

“Your affectionate,

“EDWARD.”

*“June 27th, 1751, Saville House.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I thank you for your letter, and for the good advice you have given me, espetially in saying that Princes ought to know as much, if not more than other men, because of their great anwantages over them.

“I am now in the reign of King Henry the Third, who came to the throne in his minority ; and therefore the Earl of Pembroke was Regent as well as gardian to the young King. The

Barons were very angry in John's time, that they had not got back again that which they had in-joined under the Saxon Kings; and after Pembrok's death, being disgusted with the behaviour of the Regents, the sent to Rome to have the King declared of age before the usual time; but they were not long satisfied with their master, when they found that he did not pursue the wise and good measures marked out to him by Pembroke. I hope you an Lady Harcourt are well, and everybody there.

"I am, your affectionate,

"EDWARD."

*"Saville House, July 2nd, 1751.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—I thank you for your letter, which I received on Monday the 2nd. We have got some fair weather, which I have greatly wished for your sake and ours, though we have had a narrow escape this evening. The Bishop says we go on very well. I am yet in King Henry III., whose life is very long, and I think very tedious, because he was such a humble footstool to the —. I must beg leave to conclude, because Mama calls, therefore

"I am, your affectionate,

"EDWARD."



*"Saville House, August 2nd, 1751.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—I am very glad to hear that you was so well diverted with the fireworks which Lord Nunum had. I am extreamly glad to hear that he likes writing better than he did. We wride constantly when the weather will permit. The Bishop is much better. I saw him to-day, and he said, to my great satisfaction, that I went on very well with my Latin. I shal finish the reign of Henry the Fourth to-morrow, whose reign I think very intrigate. Pray lett me know how your shutting goes on. Pray give my compliments to Lady Hearcourt, and Lord Nunum.

"I am, dear Lord,

"EDWARD.

"P.S. Pray excuse the shortness of my letter ; but to tell you the truth, I am so sleapy, that I have hardly the patients to write it."

*"Lesester House, August 24th, 1751.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—I long to see you very much, and thing every day an age since the time you left us. I am very sorry to let you know that the Bishop has been so bad that he has not been able to come to us but once since your absence. The Latin goes on very well. I am in the reign of Richard the Second, whose reign

I hope to finish on Monday, whose reign I detest and abhor ; firstly, because he gave himself up totally to his flatterers ; and, secondly, because he had no not the least grain of honour.

“I take this opportunity of letting you know that a man cauled Heath, a Mathematician, came here to-day about a wheel for mesuring miles distances, which he said you had ordered him to gett. Pray give my compliments to Lady Hearcourt and your yong family ; but in perticular to Lord Nunum.

“I remain,

“EDWARD.”

*“ Savile House, August, 1751.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I thank you for your letter. I can tell you with great joy that the Bishop is much better, so that he has been able to come to us evry day but yesterday, because he was ordered to take some confining physick. He says that he is much better to-day, in short, wan ought to beleive ; but, indeed, I did not any great difERENCE between these twoo days. Our Latin goes on very well. I am in the reign of Henry the Forth, surnamed Bolingbrocke ; but to lett you know the whole truth, I don't know him well enouf to make any remarks opoN him, therefore to my, where one ant sure of the fact, I thing 'tis better to hold on's

tonge. I hope Lady Harcourt, Lady Betty, and Lord Nunum are well.

“I am, dear Lord, your affectionate,

“EDWARD.

“Pray excuse the badness of my hand.”

“*Saville House, Sept. 1751.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I thank you for your letter, and am very glad to hear that you were well diverted with the horse-race. I am very sorry to lett you know that we all think that the Bishop is worse these two days. We wride evry when the weather will permit us. The days begien to grow so short, that we have hardly above an hour for wriding. I desire you would lett me know how to conduct the following.

“You mast know that Will Cato has an exceeding preatty grey gelding beetwen the highth of the bay maihr and the blak belonging to a relative of Lord Sussex, the name of which is Rafau (an Irish Bishop), which much to big and heavy for him. The horse stands at Barbays, where you may hear the full perticulars.

“Pray give my compliments to Lady Hearcourt and all the yong family.

“I remain, your affectionate,

“EDWARD.”

*"Sept. 12, 1751.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—I am very glad to hear that you had good sport, and am allso very glad to hear what agreeable company you have had ; indeed, it shews that you have a great command of your countenance. So much I know, that if I had been in your place, I should have been so out of countenance and shamefaced, that I should have most run out of the room. The Bishop of Norigh is much better ; but was forced to be bludded yesterday ten ounces by Doctors Heberden's advise.

"I have had all the phisiseans and surjons, who at last have given me leve to be well ; they have made a long harang for want of somthing else to say.

"Pray give my compliments to Lady Harcourt, L<sup>d</sup> Nunum, Lady Betty, and Billy.

"I am,

"EDWARD.

"Lady Augusta desires her compliments to Lady Hearcourt and Lady Betty."

*"Saville House, Nov. 2, 1752.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—I do suppose that the weather will make you regrate leaving the country, (and espetially such a delightful place as Coxthop and Nunum with all its pleasant views). I own, I thought it a little hard to have the three last

days so bad, because we intended to have made the best use of our time in going over all our old favorite rides ; and now, as soon as 'tis out of our power to be out so much, the weather chances, as if it had done so only to disapoint us ; that is the way of fortune, to give us little trifeling disapointments to prepare us for greater, without which nobody can go through the world. But here we must stop, for this lets us into to great a field to reconn such trifles amonst. We have had a very fine ride over the two bridges, which I thing as fine a ride as can be. The mare proves charmingly, and brother George looks quite a different thing upon her.

“ Pray give my compliments to all your family.

“ I am, your most affectionate,

“ EDWARD.”

“ *Thursday, Kew, May 28, 1752.*

“ MY DEAR LORD,—I long to see you again. I hope you found everything in good order in the country, and that you got safe down. I wish that Lady Harcourt may not be the worst for her journey, (as for the rest I have no doubt). I can imagine miself seeing you quite a farmer, when your company is walking or fishing, and Billy and Bully drawing togeather. We have very good riding days, and excessive prety rides. We have seen from the Park, Cleermont, Etia, and a little

of Otlands, which makes a prodigious fine prospect. I hope all your company got as safe down as you did. My brother gives his compliments to you and Lady Harcourt, and to all your family, in which I join,

“And am, my dear Lord, your affectionate,

“EDWARD.

“P.S. I beg you will send me a chain for Mr. Stone, because his chain broke last Sunday night, therefore I told him that as I was to write to you as Thursday, I would desire you to bring or send me one, if not to much trouble.”

On the 20th of April, 1751, Lord Harcourt was made a privy councillor.

In the month of July, 1752, we find Horace Walpole writing thus to Sir H. Mann :—

“The tutorhood at Kew is split into factions ; the Bishop of Norwich and Lord Harcourt openly at war with Stone and Scott, who are supported by Cresset, and countenanced by the Princess and Murray<sup>s</sup> ; so my Lord Bolingbroke<sup>h</sup> dead will govern, which he never could do living.”

<sup>s</sup> The Solicitor-General, afterwards Lord Mansfield.

<sup>h</sup> Scott had been placed in his position by Bolingbroke.

The Princess Dowager of Wales had taken a great aversion to Lord Harcourt and the Bishop of Norwich. She complained that Lord Harcourt took very little notice of her ; the truth being, that whilst Stone, the sub-governor, had quarters provided for him at Kew, Lord Harcourt was forced to hire a house at Brentford, and was often left waiting in the hall at Kew amongst the servants, till the Princess chose to send for him.

No wonder, then, if Lord Harcourt marked his appreciation of such treatment.

In respect to the Bishop, the Princess complained that books and logic were of no use to Princes ; and that the preceptor insisted upon too much work, and allowed too few holidays.

Lord Harcourt and the Bishop, on the other hand, complained that the absolutist doctrines instilled into the minds of the young Princes by Stone and Scott were highly pernicious ; and that unless the two latter were dismissed, they must resign their trusts.

The commotion caused by this question extended far beyond the narrow circle of the Court.

The ferment was increased by the circulation of an anonymous letter by Horace Walpole, to the following effect :—

That the education of the Prince of Wales was a subject of vital interest to the nation ; that the misfortunes already suffered by this country had been greatly dependent upon the bad education given to the two Charleses, and to James the Second, who were early taught to believe in “the Divine right.” That it was notorious books inculcating such doctrines had been put into the hands of the young Princes ; that there was reason to believe that a noble Lord had accused one of the preceptors of Jacobitism ; but, astonishing to say, no notice was taken of the complaint ; on the contrary, the accused person was continued in his position, without any satisfaction being given to the governor and preceptor, who, though a nobleman of most unblemished honour, and a prelate of



the most unbiassed virtue, were treated in the grossest terms of abuse by a menial servant of the family.

The matter was brought before the Privy Council, which was occupied ten days in hearing evidence; nor was it allowed to rest here. A motion was made in the House of Lords by the Duke of Bedford, for the production of papers; a debate ensued, which, however, collapsed without resulting in a decision.

Lord Harcourt and the Bishop of Norwich resigned, and the King was much put to it to find successors. Horace Walpole says:—

“Many were named, and many refused it. At last, after long waiving it, Lord Waldegrave, at the earnest request of the King, accepted it. The Earl was very averse to it. He said to a friend, ‘If I dared I would make this excuse to the King, “Sir, I am too young to govern, and too old to be governed.”’ But he was forced to submit.”

If the Princess Dowager of Wales disliked Lord Harcourt, she hated Lord Walde-

grave, whom she chose to consider as a spy set over her by the King.

Lord Waldegrave's account of his royal pupil was couched in these words :—

“I found his Royal Highness uncommonly full of princely prejudice, contracted in the nursery, and improved by the society of bedchamber women, and pages of the backstairs. As a right system of education seemed quite impracticable, the best which could be hoped for was to give him true notions of common things ; to instruct him by conversation, rather than by books ; and sometimes, under the disguise of amusement, to entice him to the pursuit of more serious studies.”

The following letters were written by Lady Harcourt, to her son, Lord Nuneham, who in the year 1751 was fifteen years of age :—

“*Bath, May 4, 1751.*”

“MY DEAREST BOY,— . . . No two poor mortals was ever so tired of a place as we are of this, for 'tis a continued round of nonsense ; and had we not taken a few jaunts up into the country, we should have had no sort of entertainment. . . .

“What struck me the most was a monument that was erected to the memory of S<sup>r</sup> Bevil Gran-

ville, on the very spot where he was killed by the Parliament Army. . . .

"In this day's jaunt I contrived to get wet-shod, whereby I acquired a cough, &c., that now hinders me drinking these waters; which I do not lay much to heart, as I am convinced the effect will be much the same whether I drink 'em or let 'em alone. . . .

"You cannot conceive how much I am provoked with the account you give me of the painter's drawing of Betsey. I believe I may be allowed, without much partiality, to say that she is rather well than otherwise; and by what you tell me, he has made her into a meer Dowdy, so that 'tis hardly worth your or your brother's while to sit, except you chuse it; for I suppose he will make you into two Baboons; but I desire you wou'd do what you like best. . . .

"Now accept my thanks for the drawing you have been so kind to do for me, and I hope I shall be able to procure you a curiosity that grows here. Mr. Nash tells me there are four sorts of Orcas's, two you are acquainted with, the other two are the Butterfly and the Man Orcas; the latter resembles a child (he says) in swaddling clothes, but I think 'tis too extraordinary to be credited; if it proves as I wish it may, you may depend upon my using my utmost endeavours to get some roots of it. . . .

"R. HARCOURT."

*“ Cavendish-square, Oct. 12, 1751.*

“MY DEAREST BOY,— . . . I now will tell you some news I picked up yesterday at Kensington, where you will be surprized to hear that I have again exhibited my self; but I thought I cou’d not avoid going on his Majesty’s Coronation, as he knew I was in Town. And, indeed, I am glad I did, for there was every body of any fashion in and about London, which made a pretty full Drawing-room; among the rest was Lady Pembroke, who they say is certainly married. And I hear Miss Canning’s match is as certainly broke off. But what is a worse peice of news than all the rest, is an accident that has befall L<sup>d</sup> Cobham, which is intirely owing to his own inactivity.

“It seems he has used himself almost always to lean back in his chair, and at other times to sit double, which, with a favourite posture he had of leaning, and setting his feet against the wainscot, has forced out his back-bone, which can never again be replaced; and though quite a young man, will be always obliged to walk double. This account I had heard before, but had it confirm’d to me this day by M<sup>r</sup>. Reade, who had seen one of the people that attend L<sup>d</sup> Cobham, and who told it him in a more circumstantial manner than I am able to relate. . . .

“I have received a visit from M<sup>r</sup>. Powell, who

with his family, M<sup>rs</sup>. Harcourt's, and M<sup>rs</sup>. Ringer, we invited to partake of a Turtle, but so bad a morsel was never tasted; in my opinion, a dog wou'd not eat of it if there was any carrion in the kingdom, but some of our friends eat of it very comfortably. . . .

“R. HARCOURT.”

*“July the 12, 1754, Cockthorp.*

“MY DEAREST SON,—Your very kind and affectionate letters always give me the highest satisfaction and pleasure; and in a great measure make amends for the pangs of absence, which I am vain enough to think I have bore with more resolution than either Lord or Lady Jersey<sup>i</sup>. For by his Lord<sup>ps</sup> account, they were both still very much depressed; which, I believe, with the addition of the return of Lady Jersey's rheumatick disorder, prevented their calling upon us in their way to Bristol. However, they have promised us to spend a few days here in their return to Middleton.

“We have nobody with us at present but Col. Vane, Major Bate, and M<sup>r</sup>. Fanquier and his two daughters, the eldest of which I think a charming young woman, not only for beauty, but behaviour; but as she is not at all in the stile of the Wests, and some other young people about the Town,

<sup>i</sup> The third Lord Jersey.

I almost doubt whether you wou'd be of my opinion. However, I hope you will pardon my hinting that they are not quite infallible. . . .

"Miss Lucy Eevlyn, who I think you knew, died lately of the small-pox, in the natural way; and I have heard of so many failing in that disorder within these few months, that my L<sup>d</sup> and my self are more and more rejoiced that we had resolution enough to enoculate you. . . .

"R. HARCOURT."

*"Shifford<sup>k</sup>, August 2, 1754.*

"MY DEAREST SON,—.... This place is famous for having the first Parliament that ever was in

<sup>k</sup> A manor belonging to the Harcourt estates. In Skelton's "Antiquities of Oxfordshire," 1823, we read as follows:—"Dr. Plot thus translates part of the MS."

"There sate at Shifford many thanes, many bishops, and many learned men, wise Earls, and awful knights; there was Earl Elfrick, very learned in the law, and Alfred, England's herdsman, England's darling; he was King of England; he taught them that could hear him how they should live.

"There is a piece of ground near the present church, called at this day 'Court Close.' One of the common fields at Aston, in the neighbourhood of Shifford, bears the name of Kinsey, corrupted probably from the King's Way.

"Shifford, once so populous, and containing, as it is said, several ecclesiastical buildings, can only now be traced by its humble church, and a few rural habitations. The greater part of the solitary old church, which was very ancient, fell in 1772. The present building was not completed till some years after, when the Rev. Samuel Johnson, one of the vicars of Bampton, officiated in it." (The church has been entirely rebuilt within the last few years.—E. H.)

England, held there, which I think was in the reign of Alfred; and I wish we may be so fortunate as to find some remains of the building where our ancestors sate. . . .

"Captain Webber, who you have seen at Cockthorp, is just returned from the Indies; he has been so obliging to bring us a compleat service of china for the table. . . .

"Now I mention Oxford, I ought to tell you there has been found in the market-place there a most treasonable copy of verses, which has been taken notice of by the gentlemen of the Whig interest, and the Grand Jury of the County has presented them at the last Assizes, offering a reward of £50 to whoever shall discover the author of them; this vigorous measure has produced an additional reward of £200 more from his Majesty, which we all hope will be a means of discovering so infamous a writer. . . .

"R. HARCOURT."

*"Cockthorp, Sept. 16, 1754.*

"... I told you in a former letter of his Grace the Duke of Kingston's intended match, if a divorce cou'd be obtained, and likewise of L<sup>d</sup> Walgrave's with Miss Drax; the latter I hear is declared; and I am told a person representing to him the flaw there was in that Lady's character, his Lord<sup>sp</sup> replied that nothing was worthy of consideration



in a woman but her beauty; are not these glorious principles, and is not he a proper person to form the mind of a young Prince<sup>1</sup>. . . .

*" Cockthorp, Nov. 12, 1754.*

" . . . I have been prevented writing by my old complaint, which was occasioned by a fright I received by seeing your Aunt in one of her fits; and wish I cou'd say she had used any precaution to prevent my seeing it. But she acted quite a contrary part; for though she had exceeded the usual time of being ill near ten days, yet she exhibited her self as much as ever, and at last had it amidst a circle of about twenty people, which, I believe, gave her very little concern, though she has indeed made a few pretences to it. She and Mrs. Harcourt go from hence the latter end of this week, which is a loss I shall not much regret, as I have been so lately a sufferer by their company. . . .

" Your Aunt Vernon and her family, who has made us happy with their company a fortnight, intend likewise leaving us this week. I must own I am quite melancholy at the thoughts of parting with them, as they are most agreeable, worthy people, and she in particular a most charming woman. . . .

<sup>1</sup> Lord Waldegrave was then Governor to the Prince of Wales, afterwards George the Third.



"She intends writing to you again very soon, and desires I wou'd tell you she received a visit this summer from your acquaintance, Mr. Finch, who she thinks is not the least improved by his travels, but is the same wild creature as when he quitted Yorkshire. He has brought over a creature from Angier which nobody but himself wou'd have thought worth the carriage; 'tis a wolf, so exceeding fierce, that it has already eat of part of a servant's arm, and I suppose in a little time will make a meal of the whole family. . . .

"R. HARCOURT."

*"Thursday evening, 11 o'clock, Jan. 2, 1755.*

"MY DEAREST SON,— . . . We did not set out from Cockthrop till last Thursday, and had a very cold journey, the roads being far better than I ever knew them at this time of y<sup>e</sup> year; but the water was so high at New Bridge, that we were obliged to boat it, which was very agreeable to me, as I am particularly fond of that element. But as it was rather cold, I am making a cloak (which will be of service to me another year) lined with the skin of a loup cervier, which I imagine will be as warm as your pelisse's, and am much surprized you have not yet got one of them; though I cannot help applauding your resolution more in not giving way to chilliness, than I do your humility in condescending to visit the more

than impertinent Duchess of Courland, whose behaviour was the most extraordinary I ever heard of; and my L<sup>d</sup>, who you know has less pride than most people, thinks you have let down the dignity of the House of Lorrain so much, that if Queen P—ll cou'd know it in the other world, she wou'd certainly make you a visit to reprimand you for it. . . .

“As I take for granted that you have heard of L<sup>d</sup> Gower's and Albemarle's deaths, I shall say nothing of them; but that there are numbers of places vacant on that account, and three blue ribbons, which are not filled up, neither do I hear when they are to be, nor by whom. However, doubtless there are many competitors for them. . .

“Miss Furnace, who I think you are acquainted with, is I hear soon to be married to a son of S<sup>r</sup> Edw<sup>d</sup> Deering's; and Miss Nichols, next week, to L<sup>d</sup> Dartmouth. Surely the latter is one of the most fortunate women that ever was born; the escape she has had in one instance, and her good fortune in the other, is really astonishing. . . .

“Though I promised you to conclude with this subject, I find I am unable to do it till I have told you of an odd wedding that is soon to take place. Miss Anne Conway is going to be married to M<sup>r</sup>. Harris, an old rich gentleman, grandfather to the present L<sup>d</sup> Orford. I beg to know if this does not make good the old proverb, that Love

is blind ; as is poor Mr. Strode in reality, for he can't so much as walk about his house without assistance. . . .

“ R. HARCOURT.”

“ *London, Feb. 6, 1755.*

“ . . . . Now I mention the word fortune, one of the greatest amongst that number, Lady Dartmouth, appeared, I am told, like a Goddess at Curnechow's Masquerade last night. The company in general were all very fine ; but particularly Lady Rockingham and Lady Coventry, who were covered with diamonds : the former represented Night, and the stars upon her dress, it's said, were real jewells ; but as I was not there my self, I can't affirm it.

“ You will wonder, I daresay, why I was not ; but the truth is, I had not the offer of a ticket, and I was too proud to ask for one. However, there are some few people more of the same degree that were as much neglected, w<sup>ch</sup> is a great comfort to one under the like misfortune. My L<sup>d</sup> indeed had an invitation, but as neither your Sister nor my self had the same, he declined going. Miss Liddel, who I saw before she went, look'd very pretty ; she was in a Turkish habit, and was dressed by Mrs. Pritchard.

“ Lady Betty Spencer was dressed like one of Ruben's Wives, and danced with S<sup>r</sup> J. Lowther,

which makes people conjecture that she is not disagreeable to him. The P. of W., who indeed I should have mentioned before, was a very fine mask, and looked very handsome; his partner was L<sup>y</sup> R—m, and P. Edw'ds, L<sup>y</sup> Coventry; they had both the honour to sup with the P—s of Wales. But the best mask of all was L<sup>d</sup> Delawar, his dress was taken from a picture or statue at Kensington, commonly called Queen Eliz. Porter; 'tis a figure of a prodigious size, and in order to represent it the better, he wore a pair of very high-heeled shoes, which made him appear like a Colossus. The play ran all night very deep, the Duke lost 3000 guineas, S<sup>r</sup> R<sup>d</sup>. Littleton 1100, which Dick Edgecombe won; and there were several more large sums lost and won, but I have not yet heard the names of the people who were the gainers or losers. . . .

“R. HARCOURT.”

“*A Milord, Milord Newnham, Seigneur Anglois, chez Madam Valentin, a Leipsig, en Saxe, en Allemagne.*

“*London, March 15, 1755.*

“MY DEAREST SON,— . . . It is said there is a prospect of a war with France, for which we are making great preparations, having already considerably augmented both our Troops and Navy, and recalled some regiments of Scotch in the Dutch service, which they are obliged by treaty

to restore in case we have occasion for them ; so that at all events we shall be provided for their reception, in case they shou'd have thoughts of honouring us with their company, as some people insinuate they have by the great armaments they are making at Brest.

“Their Ambassador is still however with us, and Lord Hertford was named to succeed Lord Albemarle at Paris ; but within these few days there is nothing said of it, so that people think a war is enivitable. If it should be so, his Majesty can't go to Hanover, w<sup>ch</sup> I suppose will be some mortification to him. He has appointed Lord Rochfort to be Groom of his Stole, which has disoblged L<sup>d</sup> Paulet, who was the oldest L<sup>d</sup> of the Bedchamber, so much that he has wrote a letter in very strong terms to his Majesty, wherein among other things he says, ‘to divide and govern is an old maxim in Government, but to divide his Majesty's friends is a maxim reserv'd for the Administration of the Duke of Newcastle.’

“How this has been taken I can't learn ; but certain I am that truth is rarely acceptable in Courts. I shou'd have added, the letter contain'd his Lord<sup>shps</sup> resignation, which place is filled up by the Duke of Ancaster, as is L<sup>d</sup> Albemarle's by L<sup>d</sup> Essex, and Lord Orford is added to the number. L<sup>d</sup> Hartington is certainly to go to Ireland, where people are in hopes he will be

able to compose differences, which have long been at a great height. The Duke of Dorset, some think, will succeed him as Master of the Horse; but of this I am not so certain, as that they can't venture to send him to Ireland. If you shou'd see in the publick papers that my L<sup>d</sup> is advanced to the rank of Major-General, don't look upon it as any favour conferred upon him, for 'tis nothing more than a thing of course, though I believe and hope 'tis all the acknowledgements he ever expects to receive for the many services he has done to his King and country; but no more of that, the reflection of doing what's right is reward sufficient for an honest man. . . .

"Before I conclude my letter, I must inform you of a match, namely, L<sup>d</sup> North, who is soon to be married to Miss Peek, a young lady of great fortune, and I hear of equal merit; so in every body's opinion there's a great prospect of happiness for them. . . .

"R. H."

*"A Mylord, Mylord Newnham, Seigneur Anglois, chez Madame Valentin, a Leipzig, en Saxe, en Allemagne.*

*"April 24, 1755.*

"MY DEAREST SON,— . . . The Parliament having little more now to do, rises 'tis said either to-morrow or a Saturday, and then the King, to the very great vexation of all his friends, sets out for

Hanover ; which place, as you are to go to, I hope to have a description of, for I can't help thinking there must be some very extraordinary charms in it that can tempt so good a Prince to leave us at this critical juncture. We are very busy raising men, and fitting out our Fleet, which every body agrees is a very formidable one. Admiral Boscawen is already sail'd with eleven ships of the line, and his brother George is gone to his regiment in Ireland by this time. . . .

"Lady Jersey, who has been dangerously ill, is now so well recovered that she is gone to Kensington for the benefit of the air; but you had better take no notice of what I say concerning her to L<sup>d</sup> Villiers, because she pleases herself extremely with the thoughts of his knowing nothing of her last illness. . . .

"R. HARCOURT."

*"A Mylord, Mylord Newnham, Seigneur Anglois, chez Monsieur Michael David, a Hanovre, en Allemagne.*

*" Cockthrop, June 3, 1755.*

"MY DEAREST SON,—I had the pleasure of receiving from you, a few days ago, a letter dated from Dresden, where I am extremely happy to find you were so well received, and believe you will not be less so at Berlin; for just before we came out of Town (which was last Thursday sevensnight), M<sup>r</sup>. Villiers received a letter from the



King of Prusia, informing him that L<sup>d</sup> Villiers and your self shou'd have no reason to repent going to his Court, by which I take for granted you will be particularly well received. And I hope you will not be less so where I direct this letter, for there I think you may claim civility, though I very much doubt whether you will receive much of it, if one may be allowed to guess from a certain person's behaviour to my L<sup>d</sup> before he left England. He went as is usual to take leave, and I suppose might have the vanity to expect to have some notice taken of him, it being likewise immediately after the decision of the Oxfordshire<sup>m</sup> affair; but not a word was spoke, which makes me almost ready to think his M—y was displeased at an event that all the world look'd upon to be of singular advantage to him.

“However, this instance of disregard I beg may not be mentioned, for shou'd it come to the ears of the opposite Party, it would be matter of triumph to them, and therefore it had better be buried in oblivion. Ministerial affairs are pretty much in the same situation as they have been in for some time past. His Grace people seem to think is in a declining state, which I suppose must appear next winter, unless he can be prevailed upon to trust some body beside S—e and M—y.

<sup>m</sup> The election of Lord Parker, as County Member.



“Legge is extremely ill-treated by all that faction, and even by the K. himself, who they influence strongly against him ; for no other reason, as I can hear, but that he is an honester man, and is possessed of greater abilities than themselves. They have lately been so injudicious to offer his place to S<sup>r</sup> Geo. Lee, without acquainting him with it, under pretence that he wou’d be content with a Peerage ; but the friends of the Government hope there scheme will be frustrated, and that nothing will oblige M<sup>r</sup>. L. to quit his post, but their taking it from him. . . .

“I am sorry to find you have some doubts that my Queen Mother is not an original. I own, I was in hopes it was ; but if it is not, it may certainly be allowed to be a good copy. Now I am speaking of pictures, I must tell you I had yours<sup>n</sup> brought home but the day before I quitted London, Reynolds having kept it till that time to make some alteration in it ; and though I think it is a very disadvantageous likeness of you, yet I can’t help acknowledging it gives me more pleasure to look upon it, than I cou’d receive from viewing the whole collection of the King

<sup>n</sup> This picture now hangs in the ante-room at Nuneham. It is noted in Horace Walpole’s Catalogue thus :—“the transparent colouring of this head can scarcely be surpassed.” The following entry is found in Lord Harcourt’s Note-book :—“Paid Mr. Reynolds the painter, for picture of myself and the boy, £26 10s.” Lord Nuneham was then eighteen years old.

of Poland, or even the pretty Angel you are so good as to wish to send me. . . .

"We have thoughts of going to St. Donat's, a place I believe my L<sup>d</sup> mentioned to you that he had thoughts of purchasing; in which, if he succeeds, I shall send you a print of the place, otherwise it will not answer paying the postage. We intend being at L<sup>d</sup> Talbot's some days, he having been so obliging to give us an invitation; which will make it extremely agreeable and convenient to us, his house being but eight miles from the Castle. . . .

"Your acquaintance, L<sup>d</sup> Euston, is soon to be married to Miss Liddel, every thing being agreed upon. And S<sup>r</sup> James Lowther is talked of for Lady Betty Spencer; but I very much doubt whether it will be a match, the Duke and Duchess being very cautious to whom they dispose of her. Indeed, they are greatly to be commended for it; for 'tis universally agreed that she is one of the most amiable young women that ever was born, and I am afraid S<sup>r</sup> James is a little wild. . . .

"R. HARCOURT."

*"A Mylord, Mylord Newnham, Seigneur Anglois, chez Messrs. Suitmer, Frères, a Vienna, en Autriche, en Allemagne.*

*"Tuesday, July 29, 1755.*

" . . . The Court of Hanover, by your account, is not a very entertaining one; but upon the

whole, your reception has been better than I expected. Mr. Whitehead, I find, thinks it has been a very good one, and instances a very polite speech of his M—y's to you upon taking leave. . . .

"His Majesty, some people think, will not be long before he returns to England, his presence being undoubtedly necessary at this juncture, when we hourly expect a declaration of war from France. The Ambassador return'd thither about a week ago, much displeased it seems with our taking two of their ships before war was declared, though they have been attacking us for this year and half in America ; and I hope our Fleet, which is a very noble one, will repay 'em for the incroachments they have made on our territories there. . . .

"R. HARCOURT."

*"A Milord, Milord Newnham, Seigneur Anglois, chez Messrs. Suitmer, Frères, a Vienne, en Autriche, en Allemagne.*

*"Hensol, Friday, Aug. 15, 1755.*

". . . . I did not know whether I might not become a Gentlewoman of Wales ; but now I have seen St. Donat's, I cease aspiring to so great an honor. In plain English, the Castle is a very ugly one, much out of repair, has no appearance of magnificence, is very intire, but does not command the least view of any kind from it, no not

so much as a tree or a piece of grass. On the other hand, I must own that the prospect of the sea from the garden is very fine ; 'tis five leagues over to the Devonshire coast, which you see with great ease, and can plainly with the naked eye discern the corn-fields. With regard to our purchasing of it, I can say but little to it at present, for S<sup>r</sup> J<sup>n</sup> Tyrrwit has told L<sup>d</sup> Talbot he will not part with it ; if he does, I believe we shall have the refusal. I wou'd have sent you the Print, which is a pretty exact one ; but as the place has not answered my expectations, I was unwilling to put you to the expence of it. . . .

“ R. HARCOURT.”

“ *A Mylord, Mylord Newnham, Seigneur Anglois, chez Messrs. Suitmer, Frères, a Vienne, en Autriche, en Allemagne.*

“ *Cockthrop, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 1755.*

“ Things are in a very unsettled condition in Ireland, whose Parliament is soon to meet, where 'tis thought there will be warm work. Some people go so far as to say that 'tis not improbable but a motion may be made that L<sup>d</sup> G. S—e may be expelled the House of Commons. If that point should be carried, 'tis likely they will then take the P—M in hand, who our ministry have hitherto supported unreasonably, and 'tis thought will continue to do so, unless they are

forced to do otherwise. Mr. H. L. continues, I hear, to be very ill-treated by 'em. Not long since, it seems, at the Treasury Board some papers were presented to him to sign, which he refusing (not having been informed of the contents before, as is usual to a person in his high office), one of the Gentlemen that sate near him told him the D. of N. had signed it ; he replied, very probably he had, as he knew the contents ; but as he had not been informed of 'em, he should desire to be excused this behaviour. I am told that set of people take this heinously ill, and look upon it as flying in the face of his Grace. How these jumbles will turn out time must shew, and people of penetration can guess ; but as I am not of that number, won't pretend to give my opinion of it. There is no better account yet arrived of Braddock's defeat than what your sister wrote you word of, only people in general condemn him for his conduct in carrying up his men to certain death, for all hands agree there was not an enemy to be seen ; but that they were surrounded by fires, and had the troops stood their ground as their officers did, they wou'd have all likewise perished ; this is all I am able to pick up relating to this unhappy affair. . . .

“ R. HARCOURT.”

*"A Mylord, Mylord Newnham, Seigneur Anglois, recommandée a Messieurs Suitmer, Frères, a Vienne, en Autriche, en Allemagne.*

*" Cockthrop, Oct. 28, 1755.*

"MY DEAREST GEORGE,— . . . . At the Ball at Chipping-Norton, we had I think an acquaintance of yours, viz., L<sup>d</sup> North, who appears to me to be a pretty kind of man. And I can by no means think him so very plain as many people do ; I am sure he is beautiful in comparison of the Lady the world says he's to marry. . . . .

"I think I have not yet told you of a design we have of building a Villa at Newnham, and not a Seat, as was some years ago talk'd of ; for beside the immense sum such a thing would cost, there is absolutely not a spot upon the whole Estate, as my L<sup>d</sup>, Mr. Fanquier, and several others think, so proper for a house, as near the clump of ellms, which you are sensible cannot contain a large building. However, I think the situation will make amends for the smallness of the building, for I really think it not much inferior to Mr. Morris's, which place you have heard Mr. Whitehead speak so much of, and what not a little flatters my vanity, that so good a judge as he is agrees with me in thinking. . . . .

"My Lord approves very much of your behaviour at the Court where you are, and says our Minister was very much to blame to suffer

the English Nobility to kiss the hands of the E.<sup>o</sup> and E—s, for that the A—ns<sup>p</sup> never do it here ; but that he agrees with you that, as things were circumstanced, you could not avoid it. . . .”

“ *Cockthorp, Nov. 28, 1755.*

“ MY DEAREST SON,—. . . Debates ran very high in the H— of Com—s on the address, whether it shou’d be with alterations or not, and was carried in the negative. Pitt spoke for two hours together like an angel, Legg very well, and several others. Pitt, in answer to a whining speech of Mar—y’s, wherein he urged the necessity there was of complying with the King’s measures (for all this dispute is with regard to subsidies which, ’tis thought, is entered into merely for y<sup>e</sup> protection of Hanover), on account of his advanced age, replied that, since that gentleman was in such a melting mood, ’twas surprizing he did not deplore the state of his country, and so on, in a prodigious masterly manner ; for which ’tis thought he will be displac’d, as will also Mr. Legg and several others ; indeed, the papers say ’tis done already, but that I believe is a mistake. It is hinted by some people that the best understanding does not subsist between his M—ty and her R. H—ss, on account, it is thought, of some of her peo-

<sup>o</sup> Emperor and Empress.

<sup>p</sup> Austrians.

ple's voting with the afore-mentioned gentlemen. . . ."

*"A My Lord, My Lord Newnham, Seigneur Anglois, chez Monsieur le Marquis Belloni, a Rome, en Italie.*

*" Cavendish-square, Jan. 24, 1756.*

"MY DEAREST SON,—. . . Poor Weston, you may, I believe, remember to have heard, was a considerable proprietor to the Eddestone Light House, which by accident was burnt down some weeks since. His loss is so considerable by this misfortune, that he is oblig'd to reduce his family, and walk on foot, which, with many other disagreeable circumstances, he bears with the utmost resignation and chearfulness. His whole concern seems to be for his mother, who as yet knows nothing of it ; neither will she, if human precaution can prevent it. His reason for concealing it from her is her being of so advanced an age, that he thinks the shock wou'd be too mighty for one of fourscore years to bear. The loss, it is thought, he will sustain will be about £500 per ann. for the term of six or eight years, after which time he will receive the usual duties ; but till then, they are to be appropriated to whoever is so kind to advance the money for the necessary repairs, which I fear his share will amount to £4000,—a large sum ; but your good father, who delights in assisting the distressed, has made



him an offer of letting him have it on the easiest terms, which one who is possest of so benevolent a disposition as you are will, I'm sure, join with me in applauding.

"He is gone this morning to pay his duty at Saville House, and proposes afterwards waiting upon L<sup>d</sup> Jersey, to endeavour to gain his consent that your stay at Rome may be prolonged<sup>a</sup>, as that place seems to be so agreeable to you. By this time, I take for granted, you have seen several of the pictures and buildings, which I expect to hear you are charmed with, for by all accounts they are glorious; and my L<sup>d</sup> tells me, were you to continue there two years, you wou'd always find fresh matter of entertainment. . . . M<sup>rs</sup>. Spencer I shall wait upon very soon; I am charm'd with him for dischargeing his father's debts, and with her for her behaviour; for I am told she does not appear the least elevated with her good fortune, which, I think, is one of the strongest proofs of a good understanding.

"R. H."

*"A My Lord, My Lord Newnham, Seigneur Anglois, chez Monsieur le Marquis Belloni, a Rome, en Italie.*

*"Cavendish-square, Feb. 24, 1756.*

". . . . I can't help telling you that Bess is not a little impatient for the flowers you are so good

<sup>a</sup> Lord Jersey's son, Lord Villiers, was abroad with his tutor, Mr. Whitehead, and Lord Nuneham was of the party.

as to promise her, and longs to have some of them to wear when she is presented, which will be in a very few days, when she is to wear the gold blonde you was so kind to give her, with a suit of cloths with gold and colours. . . .

"I must acquaint you that 'tis thought the longitude is discover'd; indeed, as I am told, it is almost arrived at a certainty; for if they can fix their instruments sufficiently steady to take their observations at sea, the affair is done. This discovery was made by one Behr, the King's Professor of Astronomy at Gottingen, which, I hope, will give you a better opinion of the Germans than you used to have. We expect some of that nation here very soon, and likewise some Dutch Swiss; in short, we are making the greatest war-like preparations of all kinds; and if the French presume to make us a visit, they'll meet with a warmer reception than they expect; for tho' we are fond of French trifles, we detest a French Government. Their governess, Madame de Pompadour, is laid aside, and is made what they call Dame de Palais;—what place or employment this is people here are at a loss to know, but as you have been so lately in France you may have heard. . . .

"I am glad to find you have no thoughts of kissing the holy toe. Those that have done it, I can't help saying, have acted with the greatest impropriety; for his power has never been ac-

knowledgeed by the English Protestants since the Reformation. S<sup>r</sup> J. Dashwood acted in character when he did it, for a great Jacobite is not far from being a very good Catholick ; but as there is not many, I hope, of our Nobility and Gentry of that way of thinking, one can't help wondering they shou'd take pains to make the world believe that they are so. . . .

“R. H.”

*“A My Lord, My Lord Newnham, Seigneur Anglois, chez Messieurs le Marquis Frescobaldy e Fils, a Florence, en Italie.*

*“Cavendish-square, April 9, 1756.*

“MY DEAREST SON,— . . . My Lord, who just now finds me writing to you, desires his most sincere love, and bids me tell you he shou'd have sent you the elevation of the house that is to be built at Newnham, but has not been able to get it drawn out. He likewise desired in one of his letters that you wou'd buy him two tables<sup>r</sup> of Egyptian marble or porphyry. . . .

“R. HARCOURT.”

*“A My Lord, My Lord Newnham, Seigneur Anglois, chez Monsieur Villettes, Ministre de sa Majeste Britanique, en Suisse. Paid 2sh.*

*“Cockthorp, June 15, 1756.*

“. . . . I have lately been highly amused with a little jaunt we have taken for a few days to

<sup>r</sup> These are now in the dining-room at Nuneham.

Newnham, which place, in my opinion, is always in beauty, and deservedly has more admirers than the lady<sup>s</sup> for whom you shew so much prowess as to enter the lists. . . . I never cou'd yet hear of any one that intended more than a flirtation with her, which your sex, you are sensible, does not dislike, when ours are weak enough to admit of it; so that I think no female need value herself upon what all may have, with a small share of encouragement. . . .

“Perhaps you may not yet have heard of a piece of good fortune that has befall Mr. Denny. Mr. Penn, who is the sole proprietor of the Province of Pensylvania, has, with the Duke's approbation, appointed him Governor thereof, which, tho' so advantageous as to bring him in £1500 per ann., will, I fear, at this time be a very fatiguing employment for him. Minorca, I am afraid, has by this time surrender'd, which, if it shou'd, it is thought will be owing to the pusillanimous conduct of Byng, who was sent to relieve it. The garrison has behaved gloriously, from whose courage and the Governor's conduct everything might have been hoped for; but Fate, or rather cowardice, had decreed otherwise. And what makes this event the more mortifying is, that had Fowkes, the Governor of Gibraltar, obey'd the orders he received, in sending the

<sup>s</sup> Miss Speed, afterwards Countess de Viry.

regiment he refused, in all human probability the place wou'd have been saved. He is—which is a very small satisfaction to his injured country—superseded, and L<sup>d</sup> Tyrawley is gone Governor in his room, as is Hawk joined with Saunders to command the Fleet.

“I think I have not yet told you the message good old Blakeney sent to the K. by Lieut<sup>nt</sup> Ohara: ‘Present,’ says he, ‘my humble duty to his Majesty, and let him know, old as I am, I have as much spirit and courage to defend Minorca as the youngest French commander can have to attack it; and if I receive the succours that I expect, I’ll forfeit my head to his Majesty if I don’t hold out the place till they arrive.’ How amiable and how worthy of imitation is such a conduct! Were I Fowkes or Byng, I think I should die with shame to be outdone by a man of near fourscore years old; but such, I am afraid, the fact will prove. . . .

“R. HARCOURT.”

“*Cockthorp, July 27, 1756.*

“MY DEAREST SON,—. . . ’Tis hard to say whether people are most dejected or provok’d at the loss of so important a place as Minorca, which might have been undoubtedly saved, had it not been for the scandalous behaviour of Byng, who not only appears to be the greatest coward that

ever breathed, but also gives room for suspicion that he has betrayed his country for French gold, which that faithless nation had promised him ; but as they have never adhered to the most solemn treaties with their allies any longer than it has serv'd their own purposes, 'tis not reasonable to suppose they'll keep their faith better with him ; which is, however, but small consolation for the injury he has done us, but it may serve as an example to others not to trust them. . . .

“You have great reason, my dear, to reproach me with not sending you the elevation of the house at Newnham, which has not been forgot by me ; but Mr. Leadbetter has been so much employ'd, that he has not had time to draw it out. And now, as you'll be here so soon, I imagine you will hardly think it worth while to have it upon paper ; but I will give it you in words as well as I am able. The breadth of the house is 90 feet, the ends about 53 ; the Entrance a Vestibule ; on one hand a Breakfast Parlour, 24 by 16, and 18 feet high ; on the other a Dining Parlor, 33 by 24 ; out of that a room of 49 by 24 ; from that an Octagon Drawing Room, 30 by 24 ; which is all the house. Part of the Offices will be detached from it, as Stables, Landry, Brewhouse, &c., there not being room sufficient for them to be joined to the house, the hill dropping too suddenly to admit of it ; but under the rooms I have

mentioned, which is the Basement Story, there will be the Steward's Room, Kitchen, Scullery, Servants' Hall, Larder, and Cellars. As we are very fond of seeing this work go on, we generally go to Newnham ev'ry week; and when I was there about a fortnight ago, was tempted to go to Oxford to be present at the celebration of the memory of the Benefactors to that University, amongst which number is the present L<sup>y</sup> Pomfret, who has given all the Statues that were the late Lord's to it, and on which occasion she came to Oxford to receive the adulation and praise that was prepared for her; but most people think she wou'd have acted a wiser part if she had declined been present at it her self; but the love of flattery was too predominant in her for reason and good sense to prevail, so she enter'd the Theatre, led in by the Vice-Chancellor, and the ladies who attended her were led by the chief of the Doctors, some of which were of the Nobility.

"At their entrance there was a most violent clap, which continued till her Lady<sup>sp</sup> and train were seated. Then the Vice-Chancellor made a short Latin speech, and immediately after the Professor of Latin Poetry spoke for an hour; after these the young Nobility declaim'd, some in English and some in Latin, which all ended about two o'clock. In the evening there were Oratorios, one of which I was at, and was very



well entertained ; but what made it more agreeable to me was, that I had it in my power to return home at night, it being over at eight o'clock. . . .

“ R. H.”

“ *Cockthorp, Sept. 10, 1756.*

“ MY DEAREST GEORGE,—I am but just return'd from Newnham, or shou'd have made my acknowledgements to you for a letter that I am ashamed to say, or even think, how long ago I have received ; the truth is, our going so frequently there engrosses so large a part of my time, that it makes me a wretched correspondent, even to you. . . . I shou'd be glad if I had it in my power to satisfy your curiosity, both with regard to the future operations of the French and the punishment of Byng, who is now under close confinement at Greenwich, where he is to continue till he takes his tryal, which can't be 'till the Captains he has named to appear for him can come from the Medeterranean. How his conduct will then appear time must shew ; but appearances at present are strongly against him, tho' in general they acquit him of the charge of bribery, in which I acquiesce with you that there is nothing more base ; for tho' money is in it self a good and indeed necessary ingredient



towards happiness, yet the bad use of it produces a contrary effect ; so that 'tis as great a folly to set too high a value upon it, as to totally disregard what procures us so many of the blessings of life, and—what is still a greater satisfaction—enables us to assist virtue in distress, which many great people that I cou'd name, and some not far from my own neighbourhood, will for ever be deprived of, from their too great disregard and want of attention to their own affairs, which a certain Duke of our acquaintance has most severely felt. He is now building at Langley, which is rather unlucky for us, the Heddington Quarry not producing at present stone sufficient for the two houses<sup>t</sup>, which, I am afraid, will prevent our covering in this season ; tho' Leadbetter still gives us hopes.

“Stewart, who I've mentioned to you in former letters, paid us a visit last week at Newnham, and expressed the highest satisfaction, both with the house and place, which he thinks the finest situation he ever saw, and which, I can venture to assure him, will appear much finer when some of the trees and hedges are taken away. I believe I have not yet told you that your good Father, to oblige me, is trying to place part of the

<sup>t</sup> This was the cause of Lord Harcourt's pulling down the old house at Stanton Harcourt, to utilise the stone in building Nuneham.

Offices on each side the house, which, if it can be done, will have a fine effect. It was at first thought impracticable; but his good nature to me makes him endeavour to obviate all difficulties. . . .

“R. HARCOURT.”

*“To the Right Honble. Ld. Viscount Newnham, at Geo. Venables Vernon’s, Esq., at Sudbury, near Derby, in Derbyshire, by the Derby bag. <sup>1756</sup> Harcourt.*

*“Saturday Evening, Dec. 11, 1756.*

“MY DEAR SON,—. . . I believe I have not told you that last week I made an excursion to Newnham for a couple of days; but the weather was so unfavourable, that I cou’d only walk round the house, which is much grown since I saw it last, for ’tis several feet above the windows of the first floor, and altogether appeared charming, notwithstanding the trees and ground were covered with snow. . . .

“R. HARCOURT.”

*“Cockthorp, Dec. 4, 1757.*

“. . . . I suppose before this time your father has inform’d you of his intention of asking an audience of the P. of W., in order to recommend you to the vacant place in his Bed-chamber, which I sincerely wish for an opportunity of giving you joy of; but at present, I believe, must not hope

for that satisfaction, as my L<sup>d</sup> tells me it is more than likely that he may be already engaged; but we both hope to see you on some future occasion in his Royal Highness's family. . . .

"R. HARCOURT."

As may be gathered from Lady Harcourt's letters, an intention had long existed to replace the small Manor House at Nuneham by a more commodious dwelling. The villa, however, which was commenced in 1755, speedily assumed larger proportions; one alteration led to another; and it was not till the year 1833 that the house, as it now stands, was finally completed by Archbishop Harcourt.

A complete description of the house and its contents will be found in future pages. On February 9, 1759, Lord Harcourt was made a Lieutenant-General; and he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in the same year.

The sudden death of George the Second in 1760 brought his grandson to the throne. Lord Harcourt was one of the first who

was called to the Council Board in the new reign.

On July 8, 1761, the young King announced to his Council his intention of marrying the Princess Charlotte Sophia, second daughter of Charles Lewis Frederick, Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. Lord Harcourt was selected to fetch the Princess to England.

Horace Walpole says :—

“Lord Harcourt is to be at the Court of the Princess of Mecklenberg, if he can find it.”

The Duke of Newcastle writes :—

“Lord Harcourt sets out this day. His Majesty seems highly pleased, and showed me the present he has sent to the Princess by my Lord Harcourt, of his own picture, richly and most prettily set round with diamonds, and a diamond rose.”

On Lord Harcourt's arrival at his destination, he gives an account of his impressions respecting his future Queen, in a letter addressed to Sir Andrew Mitchell, as follows :—

“Our Queen that is to be has seen very little

of the world ; but her very good sense, vivacity, and cheerfulness, I dare say, will recommend her to the King, and make her the darling of the British nation. She is no regular beauty, but she is of a very pretty size, has a charming complexion, very pretty eyes, and is finely made ; in short, she is a very fine girl."

The marriage was solemnized in England on September 8 ; Lady Elizabeth, Lord Harcourt's only surviving daughter, was one of Queen Charlotte's bridesmaids. The bridesmaids were dressed in white and silver, with diamond coronets on their heads.

On September 5, 1761<sup>u</sup>, Lord Harcourt

<sup>u</sup> In this year a book was dedicated to Lord Harcourt, entitled "Thirty Lectures on the Principles of the Christian Religion, according to the Plan and Legacy of the late Reverend Dr. Busby. Delivered in the Parish Church of Stanton Harcourt, in the County of Oxford, by Joseph Parsons, M.A., London, 1761."

*"To the Right Honourable Simon, Lord Harcourt, &c.*

"MY LORD,—The late Lord Chancellor Harcourt, your noble ancestor, gave birth to these Essays, by recommending their Author to Dr. Friend, and other Trustees of Dr. Busby's Benefaction ; and your Lordship has encreased the obligation by condescending to lend your name and patronage, to forward and perpetuate the pious inclinations and purposes of your truly noble and worthy progenitor ; whose exemplary zeal to have his tenants and dependants built up in a holy faith and practice, according to

was appointed Master of the Horse to the Queen. He retained this appointment till the year 1763, in which year he was appointed Lord Chamberlain of the Queen's household.

The following letter from Lord Montagu to Lord Harcourt was written in September, 1762 :—

“MY DEAR LORD,—I feel so guilty, and so ashamed of my neglect, that I have not the cou-

the rules and orders of our happy Ecclesiastical Establishment, ought to be had in grateful remembrance.

“I am, with great esteem and gratitude,

“My Lord,

“Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

“JOSEPH PARSONS.”

“*To the worthy Inhabitants of Stanton Harcourt and South Leigh.*

“SIRS,—Your kind attention to my ministry among you in the early part of my life (though I have been long removed from you) is still in my remembrance; and if you will as candidly receive this late testimony of my gratitude and esteem, it will add to the pleasure of my declining age.

“I pray God these Essays, composed and now printed for your use and diligent reading, may prove profitable to you and myself in the day of the Lord, by your laying up their contents in your hearts to practise.

“That ye may be established in every good thought, word, and work, to the honour of Him who purchased and redeemed you with His Blood, is the hearty desire of

“Your affectionate Friend and former Pastor,

“JOSEPH PARSONS.”

rage to extenuate my fault, which I could in a great degree ; but I will rely entirely upon your goodness for my pardon. Since I had last the pleasure of seeing you, I have never been fixed a week in a place, so I cannot give a particular account of the horrors of Buxton ; but you will conceive what it must be to live under the same roof with fifty Sir William Burnabys, some of whom you must be with from morning to night, if you stay within doors : and if you go out, you find yourself immediately in a desert worse than Bagshot Heath, with the greatest probability of being wet to the skin before your return.

“After we left Buxton, we went to Knaresborough, another water-drinking place, which is as pretty as the other is detestable. Close by the town is the dropping well, the most picturesque thing I ever saw. There is a variety of tints upon it, and the different plants that grow about it, beyond the power of all the different kinds of dirt in your painting-cabinet to express. There are many other places worth seeing in the neighbourhood ; amongst the rest Mr. Lascelles', which, though it neither has a charming bosom of wood, nor is *bien tetonné*, yet, I am sure, would please you much ; that is, the gardens, or park,—I don't know which to call it : I believe Mr. Brown would say 'the grounds,' for as to the house, it is a universal configuration of bow-windows.

"Whilst I was at Knaresborough, I had an invitation from your friend, my Lady Bingley, as a protector of dumb beasts, to come and see her; but as I was afraid that, if I went, she would think me a dumb beast myself, and not being sure her goodness extended to two-legged mutes, I did not do myself the honour of waiting upon her.

"I cannot conceive how it is that you are not fonder of the country and of rural amusements. For my part, since I have been here, I have read the 'Complete Sportsman' two or three times over, and am now no inconsiderable one myself, though in the lowest-class fishing; but in that, few since St. Peter, I believe, have equalled me; and like him, for want, I suppose, of faith, or of a little more patience, I am often floundering in the water up to my brecks. If you are surprised to hear that I am become so great a sportsman, you will be still more so to find that I am a poet; though here I am in the lowest class too, only a translator. I am emboldened to send you my works, from knowing the great and just value you set upon the original:—

"The honour he's acquired is so extreme,  
And men for him will have so much esteem;  
That, as great kings Augustus' name do take,  
So heroes Harcourt will be called for his sake<sup>2</sup>."

<sup>2</sup> This is a translation of some lines in French under a picture of Henry, Duc de Harcourt, at Nuneham.



"I return you a thousand thanks for the news you were so good as to send, though it was rather unkind in letting me be indebted to the 'Chronicle' for the knowledge of Lord Tyvaly's having been all over the Spanish camp, disguised like a fishmonger,—a fact, I am sure, you must have been acquainted with long before it was public. And I must give you warning that I cannot admit of your not knowing the time of the post going out as a reason for finishing your letter; it is barely tolerable from one upon the road, who writes from a place he never was at in his life before. Sure, the Harcourts have been seated for so many centuries at Nuneham to very little purpose, if they have not yet found out the time of the departure of the post. But I have but an ill grace in finding fault with you after my own misdemeanours; so, begging you again pardon for my remissness,

"I am, my dear Lord,

"Your most obedient Servant,

"MONTAGU."

In the year 1764, Wilkes was expelled from the House of Commons for the publication of seditious libels, and general warrants were issued for the apprehension of all concerned in the transactions.

On February 14, Sir William Meredith moved,—

“That a general warrant for apprehending and securing the authors, printers, and publishers of seditious libel, together with their papers, is not warranted by law.”

On the last day of the debate, Horace Walpole says :—

“One would have thought that they had sent search-warrants for Members of Parliament into every hospital. Votes were brought down in flannels and blankets, till the floor of the House looked like the Pool of Bethesda.”

The Ministers obtained so narrow a majority over the Wilkites, that it amounted to a moral defeat. The King took a great personal interest in the debate, and those who voted with the opposition were deprived of their employments. Lord Nuneham, who had the courage of his opinions, being then Member for St. Alban's, voted against the Government; and three large, well-bound volumes of the “North Briton,” including the celebrated “No. 45,” have

been left by him at Nuneham, in illustration of this early part of his career.

The following is the letter which was written by his father to George the Third on the occasion; and the King's answer is also given:—

“I am under so much perturbation of mind, and am so completely unhappy, on account of Lord Nuneham, for the part he took in the last question, so contrary to your Majestie's interest, so contrary to the welfare of this country, and so diametrically opposite to my own principles, that I am called upon in duty and honor to declare my disapprobation. Lord Nuneham has hitherto attended so little to affairs of government, that I fear he has been too easily imposed upon by those who have but too well succeeded in making him and other unwary people the dupes of faction and the tools of ambition.

“That I may not suffer one moment in your Majestie's good opinion, which I value above all things in the world, I have taken the liberty of declaring my sentiments on this occasion. The goodness and sensibility of your Majestie's heart will suggest better excuses for the great liberty I have presumed to take, than anything that can be urged by, Sir,” &c.

*"Qu. H., Feb. 18th, 1764.*

"MY LORD,—Your letter on Lord Nuneham's conduct in the last question is an additional proof of your dutiful affection to my person, which I have often previously experienced. I beg you will not one moment harbour in your thoughts any doubt of my judging of your attachment from the part your son, or any one else, may happen to take at this or any other crisis.

"GEORGE R."

On January 16, in the year 1765, Lady Harcourt died somewhat suddenly, and Lord Harcourt never contracted a second marriage.

The following letter from Mr. Bowly, Lord Harcourt's agent, was received at this time :—

*"Nuneham, Dec. 7th, 1766.*

"MY LORD,—Your Lordship will herewith receive the account of receipts and disbursements on Mr. Davis's estate in Ducklington, since I settl'd with the late Mr. Davis for all quitrents, &c., to the 1st of September, 1762, at which time he told me the estate was your Lordship's. I have not mentioned the expence of the Tenants' Dinner,

&c., at the payments of his rent ; if it be a fault it may be rectified, or any expence of my own going after or looking over the estate.

“I don’t know, my Lord, what will be done with the poor people here. There is not a labouring man in the whole village that is able to do a day’s work ; and there are more than 40 men, women, and children that have now the ague.

“I got a parcell of bark, salts of wormwood, and snake-root, together with som vomits, and have given it to som of them ; but I can’t yeat bost of the success, and what to do farther I don’t know. I have likewise kill’d an ordinary sheep this week, and distributed a bit to a house, to make a little broth for the sick.

“We have now don levelling the ground near the gate going to the Parson’s, which, with making the drains, &c., have taken more time than your Lordship expected.

“I am, my Lord,

“Your Lordship’s most dutifull Serv’t,

“(Signed) W. BOWLY.”

In 1768, Lord Harcourt was appointed English Ambassador in Paris. On June 20 in that year he received the following letter from the King :—

*"Richmond Lodge, June 20th, 1768,*

*"20 m. pt. 2 p.m.*

"LORD HARCOURT,—Colonel Burgoyne wishes I would defer seeing the regiment he commands till towards the end of the summer; therefore I cannot see any objection to Lieutenant-Col. Harcourt's going with you abroad on Friday next. I wish to shew you the alterations I have made in my garden, before you have used your eyes to the regularity of those you will see abroad. I, therefore, wish you would call here a little after 12 to-morrow.

"GEORGE R."

On January 16th, 1770, we find another letter from George the Third to Lord Harcourt, addressed to Paris :—

*"Queen's House, Jan. 16th, 1770.*

"LORD HARCOURT,—I have, at least for the present, given up collecting pictures: therefore shall not trouble you with any commission for the Vandyke; but am very sensible of your attention in having communicated to me the intentions of Count de la Guerche. I received last night your list of the promotions that have been made in the French army, which gives me the more pleasure, as you know I am particularly anxious to know what goes forward in that profession. I should

have answered your first letter much sooner, had I not been so fully employed for some time, that I could not find time for it.

“GEORGE R.

“P.S.—I hear the late Count de Chaulnes wrote a book on a new method of dividing mathematical instruments; if you can get a copy of it, I shall be very glad to have it.”

The following letters were received by Lord Harcourt from his son, Lord Nuneham, between the years 1770 and 1776 :—

“*Bath, Dec. 25, 1770.*

“MY LORD,—... Bath is not now full, as it was some time since; but some of the fine people, who have not courage to support the town during the ungenteel fortnight at Xmas, are expected here. The Duchess of Buccleugh is come to see the Duke and Duchess of Montagu, during the absence of the Duke, who is gone to Scotland to vote for Lord Bredalbane to be one of the 16 peers, to which the Ministry had nominated Lord Dysart; but, to the astonishment of everybody, the peers had the proper spirit to assert their own undoubted right of choice of members, on which the Ministry have named Lord Stair to oppose L<sup>d</sup> Bredalbaine. This, I believe, is almost an un-

exampled event ; for L<sup>d</sup> Dysart's family thought him as secure as all others have been after the nomination."

*"Feb. 1st, 1771.*

"MY LORD,—There is to be to-night, if possible, a more crowded assembly than usual at Northumberland House ; and whilst all the women in London are screaming at their chairmen, with the glasses broken around them, and the men are damning their coachmen and horses, I shall be fixed by my fireside, and passing time in the more agreeable occupation of writing to you.

"The duel I gave you an account of in my last, as only determined on, was last Monday decided. Lord Paulet escaped unhurt, and Lord Milton has only a slight contusion on the breast, which, but for a button which the ball hit on, must have been pierced. Lord Milton's behaviour was such to Lord Paulet, that had the latter fallen by his hand, he could not possibly have escaped a cord. Lord P. has shewn great decency, coolness, and proper resolution in this affair. Capt<sup>t</sup>. Kelly was his second (for Sir Charles Tyte only accompanied him home after the blow was given) ; and Lord J. Cavendish, and not Lord George, was second to Lord Milton. Now peace is agreed on with Spain, and the duel over, we have no one thing at present to talk of here but the Harmonic Meeting



and the Opera, about which the partys are carried to as great a length, and as much violence and ill-nature shewn, as at a contested election, or whether one gang of rogues or another gang of rogues shall govern the nation.

“Lord Hinchingbroke is appointed Vice-Chancellor to the King. . . .

“Your dutifull Son,

“NUNEHAM.”

“*Feb. 21, 1772.*

“MY LORD,—Though I must thank you for your letter, I need not, I am certain, tell you how much pleasure it gave me, for of that you cannot doubt. I am entirely of your opinion on the subject of honours, and yet, in your particular situation, I was anxious for you having the Garter; but you have received in your own country more honour by missing it, than by having it confer'd on you; since you have learnt by that means the high esteem the world has of your character, by the displeasure they shew at the late disposal of the ribband, and the astonishment that is generally expressed at your not being decorated with it. As to your being appointed Governour to the Prince of Wales, I can easily conceive that you would not like it; though I cannot by any means be of your opinion in thinking you unfit for the employment. Look over the list of Earls (for to an

inferior rank it could not be given), and pray tell me on whom it can be bestowed; for either on account of party, illiberal manners, or immorality, is there not an objection to be made to the greater part of those who are of an age to undertake so difficult a place?

“The D— of Gloucester gave a ball on Wednesday to the Prince of Wales (who, they say, dances astonishingly). Most of the children of rank were there, besides the Court, and most of their wives, and the mothers of all the children. The King danced a Minuet and Country Dances; the Queen could not be prevailed on to shew herself in a Minuet, but danced a Country Dance. Amongst other dances the King danced the Hemp Dressers, in company with Ladies Effingham, Hertford, Holderness, Egremont, and Litchfield, and with the Lords Pomfret, Boston, Litchfield, and Denbigh, who, moreover, danced a French Country Dance.

“My brother and Lady N. are well, and present their duty. I hope you will keep your resolution of returning to England at the usual time, and that your embassy will then conclude. It is time it should, we think.

“I am, my Lord, your dutiful son,

“NUNEHAM.

“The ratification of the Spanish Convention came yesterday.”

*"March 19, 1772.*

"MY LORD,—In the last letter you favoured me with, you mention a map and a scheme of Mons. de Croye for finding the Antipodes, &c., &c.; but as neither the map nor the scheme were in your packet (at least, I could not find them), I apprehend that they are either lost, or that you in a hurry forgot to send them.

"As to getting our cousin's nonsense conveyed to the King, I am the most improper person living to undertake an affair of that sort; for, being connected and applied to frequently by the artists to convey their works to the royal eye, I am better acquainted than anybody with the very surprizing difficulties that attend the shewing anything at Court; and from so frequently failing, have desired them never more to apply to me on these occasions. The King either will not or can not receive any thing, unless it is recommended by, or passes through the hands of that supreme critic in the arts, Dalton, who not unfrequently retains for his own collection or his own profit the drawings and proof-plates that are intended for his master, without even shewing them. As to my Lord Holderness, I had almost as willingly speak to the King himself as to his Lordship, who is so altered a person, that notwithstanding our former intimacy, and having in my youth been a child of his house, his Court favor has thrown a reserve

and a coldness on his behaviour perceptible to every body, and to me is so strongly marked, that it's quite ridiculous. After this state of the case, I am sure you will see how impossible it is for me to assist Mons. de Croye in exposing himself.

"I wish I could send you any account of the never-ceasing debates in the Commons House on the King's bill ; but where party-spirit enters, it is impossible to give a true relation, because one cannot receive one. Gen<sup>l</sup> Conway fights against it, inch by inch ; the Speaker votes for it, but speaks so strongly against it, that his arguments have lost many votes to the Court. This in Sir Fletcher cannot be either folly or ignorance, but something worse. I quite agree with you, and always did, in your opinion of Lord Camden ; and if you had been ten times more severe on his conduct and character, I would readily have subscribed to it. His attic eloquence I can never sufficiently praise ; but the mean court he pays to that arch-mountebank, Lord Chatham, and his interested endeavour to regain Court preferment, is detestable, because contrary to his *real* principles, which are certainly neither monarchical nor aristocratical. . . .

"*Friday.*

"I forgot to mention that the Duke of Saxe-Gotha is at last dead, and that there seems no doubt of Lord North succeeding to the vacant

Garter. This will make the Duke of Ancaster more angry, and a worse courtier than he was before. I hear it whispered about as a fact that Mon<sup>sr</sup>. de Guynes' embassy is to end in May; so that, if it should prove true, you have a very good chance of seeing England earlier this summer than the last, and perhaps of being fixed here for ever, though I have not heard of any person for your successor, as I did last year.

"There is a terrible and alarming insurrection in Ireland, which I am not surprised at, considering the oppressions of the people from the rapaciousness of their landlords."

*"Tuesday, 1772.*

"MY LORD,— . . . It falls so seldom in my way to hear anything of the disposal of Court favours, that I have not once, except in the papers, during the whole winter heard it hinted that you were to succeed to Lord Townshend's employment, in case of his removal. It is a post, everything considered, that I would only wish to the man I hated most; and I should imagine so few would covet the honor, that it will not be easy to get anybody to accept as a favor a six-years' banishment amongst an oppressed, a wrong-headed, and an almost rebellious people. . . .

"The Marriage-bill was carried in the House of Commons by only 18, and was in fact only car-

ried by 7 ; for 10 of the minority were too late to divide, and were shut out, and Col. Hay, thinking it all over, was gone into the country."

"1772, *Wednesday Night, April 29.*

"MY LORD,— . . . . Play ran higher, if possible, at Newmarket this meeting than at any of the former ; even rouleaus were despised, and nothing but bank-notes seen on the table. They say a £10,000 was carried from London ; even Lord Carmarthen, after all his sage resolutions not to game, was there drawn in to lose £1200—a mere trifle in these days, but more than either he or the Duke of Leeds can afford to pay. Even the women play more than the men at White's did 12 years ago, and Miss Pelham on Sunday last lost £400 at a sitting. . . .

"I fancy there is now no doubt but that the appointment to Ireland will end with you, if you chuse to accept of it. It is from very undoubted authority that I can inform you it has already been offered to Lord Rochfort, who, after particularly acquainting himself with the state of affairs in that kingdom, has refused the employment. . . .

"*Thursday night.*

"Nothing having happened in the course of this day, I am come almost to the conclusion of my letter, which I shall, however, leave open till to-

morrow, that I may inform you how the masquerade succeeded. . . . Lady N. and Miss Vernon are just gone, and do not seem fatigued with the tedious but pleasing toils of the toilette. For their sakes and my own I begged a dinner at Col. Hay's, and I was not more glad to be out of their way than they were to get rid of me.

"I am, my Lord,

"Your dutifull son,

"NUNEHAM.

*"Friday morn.*

"Lady Nuneham tells me that nothing could equal the brilliancy of the scene, and the magnificence of the *coup d'œil*, of the Pantheon filled with masks. The illumination of the dome with the transparent paintings, and the festoons of different coloured lamps hanging between the columns, must indeed have had a glorious effect. There were but 1500 tickets issued out, so there was no crowd, and, by means of ventilators, no extreme heat."

*"May 17, 1772.*

"MY LORD,— . . . I am sorry to find my brother is so desirous of going into Russia, particularly as he must necessarily run such risques before he can arrive at the army, perhaps greater than in an engagement; and should he be taken prisoner, he may never see England again. As

I neither profess to love nor to admire the profession, I can be no judge of what is to be learnt in fighting against the Turks; but this I know, that I have heard officers of distinction and reputation laugh at those who have entered themselves as volunteers in the armies of Russia. If my brother goes, I shall not be inclined to laugh, but I shall lament his mistaken ideas, and the dangers he will incur, without benefiting either himself or others by so absurd and trifling an ambition. I heard Sir James Porter (who, you know, long lived among the Turks) endeavouring to dissuade Mr. Falkener from going into the Russian army, and representing to him all the dangers he would be exposed to if he fell into their hands, though those of passing to Poland should be escaped. I hope, therefore, you will not consent to this scheme, which makes me very uneasy, and will make you positively unhappy. I never heard of it till to-day, or should have written immediately to desire you to prevent it.

“Lady N. presents her duty.

“I am, my Lord, your dutifull son,  
“NUNEHAM.”

“*Monday night, 1772.*

“MY LORD,—We dined to-day at Mr. Walpole's in the country, and had a very agreeable day, though the weather was not good enough



to allow of walking. Our company was the Duke and Duchess of Queensberry, Lord and Lady Jersey, Lord and Lady Temple, Miss Vernon, Miss Fanquier, and Mrs. Clive. On Sunday we passed the day at Clive's charming cottage. At my return that evening, I had the pleasure of finding your obliging letter (for which I return many thanks). . . .

*"Wednesday, May 27.*

".... Lady Waldegrave's marriage was declared on Sunday, by her writing to her father, with the Duke of Gloucester's permission, to acquaint him that she had been married six years, and that he might publish it; but that, as she was forbidden to assume the title of Gloucester, she subscribed herself as his dutifull daughter, Maria Walpole. ...."

*"Nuneham, June 10, 1772.*

"MY LORD,—I take the first opportunity of congratulating you on your new dignity, and allow me to assure you how ready I shall be to contribute to the utmost of my ability to the passing the private part of your life agreeably; tho' you must be well convinced that I have neither spirits nor constitution to engage in the hurry and bustle, nor to support the constraint of a public scene. I shall, therefore, submit it to your consideration, what part of the year you

would have me attend you in Ireland ; and, if you chuse it, will be at Dublin as soon after your arrival as you wish to have me there, and every succeeding year be ready to obey your summons whenever you call upon me. . . .

"I do not wonder that you are so tormented with letters and applications, for even I come in for my share, and *j'ai beau dire* that I will not apply for anybody, for the sollicitors will not take an answer ; and some have been very importunate, which, added to the mean court I have had payed to me of late, and which I from my soul detest, made me in a hurry to fly from London. . . .

"Your dutifull son,

"NUNEHAM."

"The Chevalier de la Plegniere sent some time since a magnificent book on horses<sup>y</sup>, for which I have written to thank him in your name, as it is designed for your library. I believe I need not say that I am not particularly interested about D<sup>r</sup>. Dodd<sup>z</sup>."

"*Nuneham, June 22nd, 1772.*

"MY LORD,—If I had wanted to be strengthened in my resolution of attending you to Ireland, your letter, which I last night received, was sufficient to have decided me, and to make me un-

<sup>y</sup> This is now in the Nuneham library.

<sup>z</sup> He was executed for forgery.

dertake that journey with cheerfulness. I cannot tell you how happy it made me, nor need I tell you if I could ; for I must have been devoid of every amicable feeling not to have been touched by it. I must, therefore, beg leave to insist on following you to Dublin as soon as the first hurry of your reception is over, or at least to pass all the Parliament months there, the winter after next. Thanks to the garden here, my strength (on which my shyness depends, for it is not natural to me) is very much increased, and I am very likely to live till October twelvemonth ; indeed, shortness of life I never had any reason to apprehend, for I am not an age to be paralytic, and I have no other disorder to dread.

“The going to Dublin will not be so disagreeable to me as you seem to imagine ; nay, the private part of the life may be agreeable and comfortable. The appearing at the assembly, the ball, and the drawing-room will be nothing to me ; and if I can avoid the long-men dinners of the Castle, and, what will be worse, the dining abroad, I shall be more than paid for my journey, and the trifling circumstance of living rather more in public than perhaps I should chuse, by the pleasure of living with you in private, and flattering myself that I may be of use to you in the few hours you will have of relaxation from business. I have fairly, and without aid or disguise, layed before you my

real sentiments ; and therefore, unless you order me to be fired at from the port, go I will to Ireland. . . .”

The following letter was written by Lord Nuneham to Mr. Whitehead, on his first arrival at Dublin Castle :—

“ . . . Till yesterday we did not receive our baggage, so I have had the misfortune of not being able to go to the ball, the levée, the drawing-room, or Lady Nuneham’s assembly ; however, I saw from a box, in company with a dirty *valet de chambre*, and behind three rows of chambermaids, his Excellency’s royal march into the ball-room. I saw him mount his chair of state, and staid till the 1st minuet was concluded, which was performed with all the humiliating forms that are practised at St. James’s, and which did not please me enough to make me desirous of seeing them 20 or 30 times repeated.

“ This is the most dirty, the most gloomy, the most stinking, and the ugliest city I ever was in. Most of the streets are narrow ; all that are paved are paved like the most neglected and unfrequented streets of London before the improvements ; several are half-paved only ; many not at all. Added to this, every kind of filth is thrown into the deep stream of black mud that gently

flows through the town; so you may imagine what a villanous place this is. Half the inhabitants are in absolute rags, and one-third of them without shoes or stockings, and almost naked. There are no flat pavements for foot-passengers, therefore I shall never attempt walking in the streets; and you cannot stop in a carriage without being surrounded with such crowds of importunate beggars, that, compared with Dublin, the towns in Flanders are, in that respect, free from those nuisances.

“All the lower people are idle, drunken, and universally thieves, but the Castle is where they shine the most in their profession; there are, perhaps, 4 or 5 false keys to every room, and to every table and chest of drawers in those rooms, for which reason the locks are very frequently obliged to be changed. The night we arrived, the Master of the Ceremonies was robbed of all his cloaths and some money; and the following night, Mr. Miller, who came with us, lost out of his drawers 6 pair of new silk stockings. Are not these proofs of the bad government of this country? And how shocking is the contrast between the regal pomp of the Vice Roy and the wretchedness of the people! Were they less oppressed, they would be more virtuous and more industrious.

“The pageantry of the procession to the House of Lords, and the sort of homage paid to the

L<sup>d</sup>.-Lieut., did not enchant me, for it exceeded even what I had expected; and the guards on horseback, the principal Officers of the Household with their wands, and the pages in their liverys, paddling on foot through the mud, with grooms of the chambers and footmen, through streets lined with soldiers, had an air of absolute monarchy, and of military force to support it, that, had I been an Irishman, I am certain I could not have endured the sight of. . . .”

The following extract of a letter from Lord Nuneham to Mr. Whitehead, on the eve of his departure from Dublin, shews what a change had been wrought in his ideas :—

“ . . . . I fear I am of a temper born to be uneasy; for the thoughts of leaving Ireland, probably for ever, give me as many pangs as I felt at the idea of coming here. I do love this people, and shall ever remember them with gratitude.”

Lord Nuneham to Mr. Whitehead :—

*“ Dublin Castle, May 15.*

“ . . . . There is an enchanting and a respectable warmth of heart and good humour, in the good

company of Dublin, that no other good company can boast of. You would love them, if you knew them, as sincerely as I do.

"My correspondence with Walter<sup>a</sup> has been kept up as usual, and not a tree, not a shrub in the beloved spot has been forgotten. *Fair Quiet*<sup>b</sup> will still be the object of my adoration ; and after the life I have passed during eight months, I shall return to her with additional pleasure ; for, if possible, the refined inhabitants of London and their refined nonsense will be more hateful to me now than ever. . . .

"Since my writing the above, a piece of intelligence from London, which brings a doubt on the subject of Leicester House<sup>c</sup>, as if it was not *absolutely* disposed of to the Spanish Ambassador, makes it at present uncertain whether I shall be so soon in London as I thought and designed ; for if it is not let, and the time for the Ambassador's going into it not settled for the beginning of July, I shall not go to London, but remain at Newnham till birth-days, masquerades, and *fêtes champêtres* are all over, and the fine fools all dispersed."

The following letter was also written

<sup>a</sup> Walter Clark, the gardener at Nuneham.

<sup>b</sup> Referring to some verses in the garden at Nuneham.

<sup>c</sup> At that time in the occupation of Lord Nuneham.

from Ireland by Lord Nuneham to Mr. Bowly<sup>d</sup> :—

“ 1776, *Saturday*.

“You were very humane in having thought of the wants of the poor, before I mentioned my wishes on that head; indeed, conscience (which was given to be our guide) would not let me rest in peace, when I reflected that I bestowed on unfeeling trees an attention and expense that I denied to my fellow-creatures in distress,—my great fondness for my orange-trees was the very reason why I was resolved to make a sacrifice of them; for the merit is but small in doing good, when one can bestow benefits without the most trifling inconvenience to oneself. I confess that article in my letter to you cost me a pang; but, thank God! the moment the idea occurred to me, I did not hesitate about my duty<sup>e</sup>. I am glad, however, that on this occasion Duty can be reconciled with the indulgence of my fancy, and that the conservatory will not suffer.

“I can conceive and approve of Walter’s<sup>f</sup> feelings; but if he had kept in the same opinion after the first shock was past, and he had time to reflect, I should have thought that he had not so much

<sup>d</sup> Lord Harcourt’s agent.

<sup>e</sup> Lord Nuneham had counter-ordered some orange-trees from abroad, that he might expend the cost of them in charity.

<sup>f</sup> The gardener.



charity as devotion, which, I am sorry to say, is too frequently the case; but so it is, and things apparently made to go hand in hand with each other are for the most part at variance, and the most devout are often the least benevolent. It is a so much easier road to heaven, in the opinion of mankind, to go to church without attention, to mumble over prayers unintelligible to them, and to keep to outward forms, of no consequence beyond meer decency, than to do the duties prescribed to us, that one can hardly wonder at the choice that is made to avoid trouble. . . .

“NUNEHAM.”

Lord Nuneham to his father, Lord Harcourt :—

“*Oct. 3, 1776.*”

“MY LORD, — Lord Buckingham<sup>s</sup> will certainly, I fear, not leave England till a few days after the birthday; but for very good reasons, you need not fear that he will stay with us one moment longer than he thinks absolutely necessary.

“He is in high spirits, they tell me, and expects nothing but sunshine; although the world is convinced that, all things considered, he will in a very short time see threatening clouds, which will burst

<sup>s</sup> He succeeded Lord Harcourt as Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland.

in thunder over his head; the wicked wits of London make an absolute joke of his being appointed your successor, and say he will quarrel with any old dowager who does not curtesy to him as low as he expects. His Secretary I hear well spoken of as a man of sense and strict probity; and what is no small advantage, his fortune is considerable and independent. They say, too, that he is modest and civil, which will add a lustre to his abilities, if he has any; and if he has not, will go far towards concealing the deficiency. . . .

“Lady Nuneham’s party went off very well, and was thought extremely agreeable; though as the two Ambassadors, and several foreigners and others who had never seen the house<sup>h</sup>, were here, I was vexed at the very shabby way it was shewn in; but Lady N. being half a Harcourt, there was no prevailing on her to change a plan once formed. . . .

“Yet with this disadvantage it was admired. She is to have another party on New Year’s Day, when the small drawing-room will be opened. We should have opened all the six rooms last spring, which is the time for a great assembly, on account of the size and beauty of the garden, had it not been for the necessity of giving ices on such occasions, which, made by a shop-keeping con-

<sup>h</sup> Harcourt House.

fectioner, would have been for us too heavy an expense."

*"Sudbury, Oct. 25, 1776.*

"MY LORD,— . . . We found Lady Temple at Stow, grown moped, low-spirited, and extremely deaf, and many years older in appearance than when I saw her last. The great pond is completed, and some further improvements are making to the front of the park, which since you saw it has had the addition of a beautiful colonnade, like that in the court of Burlington House. The garden front, in my opinion, surpasses in majesty and beauty everything I have seen ; and considering its extent (450 feet), and the richness of the design, and the alteration within doors, the £25,000 it has cost is not dear. All this has been done, as Lady Temple repeatedly mentioned, out of his income ; and besides this great work, and the re-improvement of the North front, he has altered the Temple of Friendship, rebuilt on an entire new plan Nelson's seat, and is now making a great improvement to the ladies' building, by adding a flight of steps and a portico. Altherop, where I had not been for eighteen years, and which I dreaded on account of the crowds, I liked most extremely ; for though there was much company, yet I knew and liked most of them ; besides, there is so much ease, and such entire liberty, that one is no more constrained than if one were

at home and alone. Though we set out very late from Altherop, we reached Nottingham by 7 o'clock; but we were too late to see the fine view near the town, or that of or from the Castle, and all we know of Nottingham is that it is very dirty and noisy, and the streets very narrow. It is a dreary part from Nottingham to Mansfield, nothing but barren heath and sand, without trees; and I was much disappointed at Newstead Abbey, where the timber has been entirely destroyed, and the park converted into a farm, so that the end of the Abbey Church which remains has lost much of its picturesque effect, for want of proper objects to accompany it.

"We saw Hardwicke the same morning, with which I was more pleased than with anything I had seen in this island, the Castles of Conway and Carnarvon excepted. There was everything to please me at Aston<sup>i</sup>, which is the very temple of genius and good taste. We had delightful music, and the servants as well as their master are artists.

"Some excellent etchings and copies in oil have been produced by Mr. Mason's young footman, whom he instructs. The butler can turn, and model, and carve, and do a thousand other things; the blacksmith of the village can tune the piano-forte and celestinet; and the shoemaker's boy

<sup>i</sup> Mr. Mason's living.

has the very finest voice I ever heard, and sings with taste, and by note.

"Miss Fanquier was invited by Mr. Mason to come to him from Blithe; and she passed Tuesday with us at Aston, and accompanied us hither, where she will remain as long as we shall, and go with us to London on Wednesday sennight the 6th October. . . .

"Your dutifull son,

"NUNEHAM."

In the year 1772, Lord Harcourt returned from his embassy in Paris, and was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. He was at the same time promoted to be a general in the army.

On the occasion of his going to Paris, Lord Harcourt had been furnished, according to the custom of the day, with services of gold and silver plate from the Royal plate-chest. At the termination of the embassy, he received a formal release, authorising him to retain the plate for his private use: this plate still exists at Nuneham. An option used to be given of taking £3000, with which to purchase plate from the Court-

jeweller. Lord Harcourt availed himself of this alternative when he went to Ireland.

Before leaving Paris, we find Lord Harcourt addressing the following letter to his daughter-in-law, Lady Nuneham;—

*“Paris, June 16, 1772.*

“DEAR LADY NUNEHAM,—Though I have wrote to Lord Nuneham this morning, I cannot help indulging myself with the pleasure of thanking you for the very kind offer you make of making me happy with your company during some part of the time I may have occasion to reside in Ireland. I consider the offer which Lord Nuneham has made as the greatest sacrifice he can pay to duty, respect, and friendship; but, as I don’t love to be behindhand with my friends, it is the first, and ever will be my principal, consideration, not to abuse the goodness of those I love; and therefore, taking the will for the deed, I shall be allmost peremptory in insisting upon his not undertaking a journey that can afford him no amusement and pleasure, for the great risk and danger to which his health must necessarily be exposed.

“Should you, after all, go to Dublin, the time I could wish to have you there would be during the sitting of the Parliament, which cannot happen before October, 1773. The town is then full and

gay, and the Castle would be much gayer if you should be there to do the honours, which, without compliment, you would do better than any one. . . . Upon the whole, your purchases in France will be for winter gowns rather than summer clothes, as the Parliament commonly rises in March or April, though it happened to set later this year. . . .

"I own I was a little out of humour with you for over-fatiguing yourself, but it was that kind of out of humour that one never feels but for those one loves most. I shall hope the dressing-plate<sup>k</sup> will please. You say much more about so trifling a thing than it deserves; if it pleases you, it more than answers my purpose. I own I thought Madame de Montemart's dressing-plate looked charmingly *le lendemain des noces*.

"I have only time to say how very affectionately

"I am, dear Lady Nuneham,

"Yours,

"HARCOURT."

The person whom Lord Harcourt followed as Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland was Lord Townshend.

"Ireland," we read in Knight's "History of England," vol. v. p. 153, "continued in an uneasy state,

<sup>k</sup> A handsome silver-gilt set, which is still at Nuneham.

although Lord Townshend had been succeeded as Lord-Lieutenant by a much more popular nobleman, Lord Harcourt."

Indeed, Lord Harcourt appears to have been sent to Ireland on account of his amiable character and easy disposition. He went there in October, 1772; but it was not till October 12, 1773, that he met his first Parliament. His speech consisted chiefly of a promise to administer the supplies with justice and economy.

Lord Harcourt found a debt, £265,000, which necessitated the imposition of additional taxation to the amount of £100,000 per annum. He had the boldness to propose an absentee tax, to be paid by all persons who should not reside actually in the kingdom six months in each year. It is only surprising, considering the powerful interests that were hit by this measure, by how small a majority Lord Harcourt's proposition was defeated. The numbers were, for the tax 102, against it 122.

The next matter which occupied Lord



Harcourt's attention was the question of relaxing the severity of the penal code. A bill was brought in to enable Roman Catholics to take leases for lives of land, and to secure to them the repayment of money lent by them to Protestants on mortgages. Matters, however, were not ripe for the passing of these measures; and all that was accomplished at the time was the carrying an Act, which passed both Houses of the Irish Parliament without opposition, to enable his Majesty's subjects, of whatever persuasion, to testify their allegiance upon oath. This was accepted by the Roman Catholics as a first recognition by the Government of their status as subjects, and upon this foundation they hoped to build their future complete emancipation.

At this time we find the following letters addressed by Lord Harcourt to his daughter-in-law, Lady Nuneham :—

*"Dublin, Dec. 25.*

"DEAR LADY NUNEHAM,—I am obliged to you for a very kind letter which I received yes-

terday, and for the account you sent me of the proposed enclosure at Stanton Harcourt. If Mr. Bosvill comes into the scheme, it will facilitate greatly the execution of it, tho' Bedwell should out of perverseness stand out. I have ever found him obstinate and adverse to anything that has been proposed for the real benefit of the estate ; but possibly he may be brought by your management to do more for you than he would consent to do for me.

"You send me a piece of news that is really news to me,—the creation of a certain Marquis. I cannot think there is any foundation for the report, especially as I never applied for that additional honour. Lord Townshend<sup>1</sup> has, I believe, some views of that kind, which he has in a manner owned, tho' not to me ; and I think Lord Hertford is not unlikely to have the same views. If you

<sup>1</sup> Jesse, in his "Memoirs of the Life and Times of George the Third," 1867, vol. ii. p. 250, quotes a passage from a letter of the King's to Lord Bute, dated March, 1776 :—

"I cannot but express my astonishment at L<sup>d</sup> Harcourt's presumption in telling Lord Drogheda there would be no difficulty in making him a Marquis. I refused to make Irish Marquises to Lord Hertford and Lord Townshend. I desire to hear no more of Irish Marquises. I feel for English Earls, and do not choose to disgust them."

Lord Harcourt was too good-natured to be the subject of much personal enmity ; yet, from being placed in a conspicuous position, he was subject to the misrepresentation of Court parasites ; and there is abundant evidence that he did not escape altogether from the annoyance of ungenerous usage.

should hear anything more about it, I should be glad to be informed of it, as well as from what quarter your intelligence comes. . . .

“The hurry of public dinners is over, which I am not a little glad of. Though they live in general very well here, there are few dinners worth the trouble of going to them, with such attendance as the Lord-Lieutenant is obliged to have: a squadron of horse by way of guards, and the battle-axes, who are like our yeomen of the guard, vulgarly called Beef-eaters, walking on each side the chariot; and this is constantly the case when the Lord-Lieutenant goes to publick dinners. This is the place for a person who loves *La Representation*. To the chapel (though it is in the Castle) the Lord-Lieutenant is attended by his pages, gentlemen of the bed-chamber, gentlemen at large, and other officers, and has a closet better fitted up, though not so large, as his Majesty’s at St. James’s. I could very willingly dispense with some of this state on my own account, but that would be improper. We have had the most delightful weather ever since I landed, much better than I ever saw at this season in England or France. The climate is less cold, but more moist, tho’ not so since my arrival. . . .

“I shall order Bowley to forbid the young gentlemen shooting any more at Nuneham after Xmas, more especially as they make so improper a use

of it. If they come afterwards, the best way is to send to the Heads of the Colleges they belong to, or to their tutors, who will prevent it.

“My love to Lord Nuneham, and to my daughter and Lady Evelyn. The Colonel desires his love to you and his brother.

“I am, dear Lady Nuneham,

“Most affectionately,

“HARCOURT.

“I am glad your taste for the flower-garden is not abated.”

“*St. Woolstan's, May 28, 1773.*

“DEAR LADY NUNEHAM,—I received your letter yesterday, just as I was setting out for Mr. Conolly's, where we dined; which prevented me, however, answering it immediatly, as I could wish to have done, lest any delay should defeat my design to purchase Mr. Boyce's estates at Sutton<sup>m</sup>. The two estates are as well as I can recollect of about the value of sixty pounds. I have a particular of them, but it is not here; but Bowley knows pretty well the value of them. I should lately have been glad to have purchased them at thirty years' purchase; but rather than not have them, I would give a year or two's purchase more. I think it will be full as well,

<sup>m</sup> A hamlet of Stanton Harcourt.

if I purchase them, and then add them to the estate, as that Lord Nuneham should borrow the money for that purpose; it will make a pretty little addition, more especially as these estates will be proportionably benefitted with the other estates by the new enclosure. I leave the transaction to you and your coadjutor Bowley, and shall be ready to ratify any engagements you shall enter into during the course of your negotiations.

"I am delighted with St. Woolstan's, and so is every one that sees it. The house is far from being a large house; and yet what appears to be a paradox, we can lodge a great many people. I have in all, ten *lits de maitre*; few houses in Ireland have so many. I have an admirable dining-parlour, and the pleasantest drawing-room in the world, except the octagon at Nuneham.

"My drawing-room commands a charming view of the Liffey, which runs very rapidly, forming a pretty cascade within about sixty or seventy yards of the window. I am just going to Dublin to do some busyness, after which I shall dine with Sir Henry Cavendish, who never fails to toast your health. Sir Harry has behaved towards me in the most friendly manner, and I am really much obliged to him; all which I set down to the account of my good friends at Sudbury, to whom I desire my love when you write to them, for

I understand they have left London. My love to Lord Nuneham and the Colonel.

“I am, dear Lady Nuneham,

“Y<sup>rs</sup> most affectionately,

“HARCOURT.”

The following letter, from Lord Harcourt to his agent, is interesting only as giving a history of parts of the family estates.

Earl Harcourt to Mr. Bowley:—

“*Dublin Castle, May 31, 1773.*

“BOWLEY,—I am sorry to hear you have had such floods, which at this season must have done great damage to the low grass grounds. If you think the hay crop in Lord’s meads and the adjacent grounds is likely to be spoilt, it might be adviseable to put the cattle into those meads, provided you think the cattle would eat the grass; which I fear they would be unwilling to do, on account of the scum which the floods will leave behind them. The upland ground will probably bear a bulky crop this year, that may make some amends for the loss of the meads, where I apprehend the flood will be a great while before it runs off, on account of the forwardness of the grass.

“I leave it to you to make such allowance to the tenant at Morton as may make him some

amends for the loss he may have sustained from this very unseasonable rise of the waters; it is better to do anything rather than to have that paultry estate in hand. I have wrote to Lady Nuneham, to let her know that I leave it to her and you to settle the value of Mr. Boyce's estates.

"I should hope that the Stanton Harcourt estate might upon the whole be improved about one-third by the enclosure; for if the land in the field exclusive of the Commons used to be rated at about 6<sup>s</sup> and 8<sup>d</sup> p<sup>r</sup> acre, I should think it worth 10<sup>s</sup>.p<sup>r</sup> acre when enclosed. I know the measure was small in general; but allowing for the small measure, I think it cannot improve less than one-third.

"The gravelly ground will make good turnip land, or will bear clover, or St. Foin; and the deeper or richer land will be greatly benefitted, so as to make the improvement very considerable. If the charge of the enclosure should make any of the people willing to part with their estates, rather than embark in an undertaking that some of them may have been averse to, as well from an apprehension of the trouble, as for fear of the charge, I should be willing to purchase them. I shall be very curious to know the admeasurement of the whole, when the survey has been taken.



"It will be adviseable to learn the sentiments of Brazen Nose College with regard to an enclosure at Hinksey; if that College is at all reasonable, an enclosure might perhaps be brought about, without even the charge of a Bill for that purpose. When you go to Oxford, I wish you would call upon the Bursar of the College, and that you would tell him my intention of inclosing, and that you would desire him to sound the Principal and Fellows about it. You may inform him that there is no doubt as to the expediency and advantage arising from an inclosure; all the advantages of which may be obtained at a very easy rate, if the College will agree to do it in an amicable manner.

"I wish to have the last made plantations in Windmill-field kept clear of weeds this year; which I hope will secure them for the future. I want to know how they grow. I desire the young beech plantation in Coneyberry Hill, near the house, may be attended to, and that the weeds there may be kept down; and that the nettles below the church in the parson's old orchard may be pulled up, and the thistles and docks cleared away. Let Joseph keep a watchfull eye to the mounds<sup>n</sup>, that the cattle may not get into them. . . ."

<sup>n</sup> Fences.



*"Dublin Castle, Feb. 13, 1775.*

"DEAR LADY NUNEHAM,—I was happy to see your letter dated from Harcourt House, where Lord Nuneham's letter, which I received yesterday, said you intended to be on Tuesday last. . . .

"I flatter myself you will have the additional comfort of being free from apprehension of house-breakers, from whom you are certainly more secure than in almost any other house in London. But what is still of more consequence, and gives me more pleasure, is the account which Lord Nuneham sends me of your attention to your health; which at your age will, I trust, fully answer your purpose, and the expectations of your friends."

The following letter was written to his sister, Lady Vernon, by the Lord-Lieutenant :—

*"Kilmore, July 1, 1775.*

"DEAR SISTER,— . . . It gave me great uneasiness that Lady Nuneham's health, even before this misfortune in the family, was such as made it very unadvisable for her to undertake another journey to Ireland; and therefore I was determined to forego any prospect of advantage that I might expect to reap from her return and Lord Nuneham's to Dublin, where their behaviour and conduct was such as gained the esteem and good-

will of every one that knew them ; but it was purchased at too dear a rate, for Lady N.'s earnestness to please, and to do me all the credit and service that was possible, was attended with a degree of fatigue that was more than she could well support ; and I fear that another such winter might have been fatal to her. But as she is young, and disposed to pay a deal of attention to her health, I make no doubt that care and your good management may restore her to that perfect state of health which her friends so sincerely wish.

“I am sure it would give you great pleasure and satisfaction to hear what people say of Lady Nuneham here ; there is but one opinion of the propriety of her conduct and behaviour, which upon the whole was so satisfactory to this nation, that they own they never yet saw anything like it, nor ever expect to see it equalled.

“I hope Lord Vernon finds the same amusement in the country that Sudbury always used to afford him. Air and gentle exercise are the best restoratives ; and he may be sure of them in attending to his improvements.

“I am now upon a visit to the Bishop of Kilmore (D<sup>r</sup>. Jones), who is situated very agreeably in a pleasant country about seventy miles from Dublin. I shall stay here till Monday, and then return to St. Woolstan's. I shall soon find time

to trouble L<sup>d</sup> Vernon with a letter ; in the mean-  
time you will assure him of my love, and

“ Believe me, dear Sister,

“ Ever most affectionately yours,

“ HARCOURT.

“ I have just received a very kind letter from  
Harry<sup>n</sup>. My love to my nephews and neices.  
I take for granted Lord and Lady Nuneham will  
soon be with you.”

Lord Harcourt alludes in the last letter  
to the fatigues to which Lady Nuneham  
was subjected. The following official list  
will illustrate Lord Harcourt's statement :—

“ His Excellency arrived at the Castle, Nov. 30,  
1772.

1772. (The winter without a Parliament).

*Public Nights.*

Dec. 11. A Drawing Room.

1773.

Jan. 15. A Drawing Room.

„ 18. Queen's Birth Day kept, an Ode, a Ball,  
and a Supper.

Feb. 5. A Drawing Room.

„ 23. A Ball.

<sup>n</sup> Afterwards third Lord Vernon.

March 19. A Drawing Room.

„ 23. A Ball.

June 4. King's Birth Day kept, a Levée, an Ode, and a State Dinner.

*Parliament Winter.*

Oct. 8. A Drawing Room ; Lord and Lady Nuneham arrived the 7th.

„ 12. A Ball.

„ 14. Lady Nuneham's assembly.

„ 22. A Drawing Room.

„ 26. A Ball.

„ 29. Lady Nuneham's assembly.

Nov. 2. A Drawing Room.

„ 4. King William's Birth Day, a Ball.

„ 12. Lady Nuneham's assembly.

„ 16. A Ball.

„ 19. A Drawing Room.

„ 23. A Ball.

„ 26. Lady Nuneham's assembly.

„ 30. A Ball.

Dec. 3. A Drawing Room.

„ 7. A Ball.

„ 10. Lady Nuneham's assembly.

„ 14. A Ball.

„ 17. A Drawing Room.

„ 21. A Ball.

1774.

Jan. 21. A Drawing Room.

- Jan. 25. Queen's Birth Day kept, an Ode, a Ball, and a Supper, 411 Ladies.  
 „ 28. Lady Nuneham's assembly.  
 Feb. 1. A Ball.  
 „ 4. A Drawing Room.  
 „ 8. A Ball.  
 „ 11. Lady Nuneham's assembly.  
 „ 15. A Ball.  
 „ 18. A Drawing Room.  
 „ 22. A Ball.  
 „ 25. Lady Nuneham's assembly.  
 March 1. A Ball.  
 „ 4. A Drawing Room.  
 „ 8. A Ball.  
 „ 11. Lady Nuneham's assembly.  
 „ 15. A Ball.  
 April 29. A Drawing Room.  
 May 3. A Ball.  
 „ 6. Lady Nuneham's assembly.  
 „ 10. A Ball, being the last Public night for the season.”

From Earl Harcourt to Right Honble.  
 Henry Flood :—

“*Dublin Castle, Aug. the 20th, 1776.*

“SIR,—I am sorry to hear that the Nocturnal meetings are not discontinued, as they may be productive of great discord and riot. The Sherrif

of the County has, I apprehend, allready sufficient authority to call out a *Posse Comitatus* whenever the emergencies of the case may require it; and the army when called upon, is obliged in common with all other subjects, to assist the Sherif in the preservation of the peace. Upon enquiry at this office, it does not appear necessary to issue out any particular order to the troops on this occasion. But if you know any two neighboring Justices, either of the County of Kilkenny or Tipperary, a General Order shall be lodged in their hands, empowering them jointly to call upon the troops for their assistance whenever it shall be deemed necessary. If you think such an order would be of use, you will send to Mr. Waite (in Sir John Blaquiere's absence), the names of the two gentlemen in the commission, in whose hands you would wish to have it lodged, and an order shall be dispatched without loss of time.

"I had a good deal of conversation with Mr. Warden Flood, who called upon me the day before yesterday at St. Woolstan's. I heard yesterday from Sir John Blacquiere, who seems now to entertain rather a more favourable opinion of *the affair* which he is solliciting, than he did for some time. I am sorry, however, it is not in his power to write with more certainty of success; but that depends on others, not on him. I was

in hopes the matter would have been decided before now; but, in a transaction where more persons than two are unavoidably concerned, delays will happen in spite of all Blaquiere's diligence and activity, which have been fully excited on this occasion.

"I am, Sir, with the greatest regard,

"Your most humble, obed<sup>t</sup> servant,

"HARCOURT."

From Earl Harcourt to the Right Honble.  
Henry Flood, M.P., Ireland :—

*"Dublin Castle, Feb. 2, 1776.*

"DEAR SIR,—I wrote yesterday to Lord North, and I hope my letter may have some weight, if it is in his Lordship's power to comply with what you seem so earnestly to wish at the outset of this Parliament. I had reason to believe he was under engagements to some of his friends, to bring them into Parliament when proper opportunities should offer; but I cannot pretend to say how he stands circumstanced at present with regard to these engagements. From the Report of the Commissioners it will be impossible for me to make any provision for Sankey, without the greatest dishonour to my administration, and a manifest detriment to the publick re-

venue, to which it is my duty to pay a proper attention.

“I am, dear Sir, with the greatest esteem,  
 “Your most humble and obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>,  
 “HARCOURT.”

In 1776, Lord Harcourt proposed to the Irish House of Commons to send out of the kingdom four thousand men<sup>o</sup>, and to accept in their stead an equal number of foreign

<sup>o</sup> Copy of the order on this subject issued by Lord Harcourt. The original is in the British Museum :—

“I have His Majesty’s command to acquaint you, that the situation of affairs in part of his American dominions, is such as makes it necessary for the honor and safety of the British Empire, and for the support of His Majesty’s just rights, to desire the concurrence of his faithful Parliament of Ireland, in sending out of this kingdom a force not exceeding 4,000 men, part of the number of troops upon this establishment appointed to remain in the kingdom for its defence ; and to declare to you His Majesty’s gracious intention, that such part of his army as shall be spared out of this kingdom to answer the present emergency of affairs, is not to be continued a charge upon this establishment so long as they shall remain out of this kingdom.

“I am further commanded to inform you that as His Majesty hath nothing more at heart, than the security and protection of his people of Ireland, it is his intention, if it shall be the desire of Parliament, to replace such forces as may be sent out of this kingdom, by an equal number of foreign Protestant troops, as soon as His Majesty shall be enabled so to do ; the charge of such troops to be defrayed without any expense to this kingdom. H.

“A true copy ; compared and examined.—C.M.

“*Directed to Mr. P. Tombelle,  
 at the Earl of Shelburne’s, London.*”



Protestant troops, to be maintained without any expense to Ireland. The House reluctantly assented to the first part of the proposition; but absolutely refused to receive the foreign troops.

"Almost immediately after the Christmas recess," we read in Knight's "History of England," "these embarrassing matters were brought before the English Parliament, where Mr. Thomas Townshend moved for a committee of inquiry, on the allegation that Lord Harcourt had made a disposal or offer of public money without consulting the British House of Commons, thereby being guilty of a breach of privilege. Ministers were greatly embarrassed, and no two of them agreed in their modes of defence. It was clear that they or Lord Harcourt had been at fault; but even the opposition admitted the great merits of Lord Harcourt's administration in Ireland, and the motion was quashed by a majority of 224 against 106."

Lord Harcourt remained for five years in Ireland as Lord-Lieutenant.

Early in the year 1777, he established himself at Nuneham, hoping to enjoy some repose after a life spent at Court, and in the

service of his country. The improvement of his property, and the embellishment of Nuneham, at once afforded him occupation and amusement. His son, Lord Nuneham, who during the long absences of his father had taken charge of the family estates, ably seconded Lord Harcourt in all his views.

On the morning of September 16, 1777, Lady Nuneham joined the party at breakfast with an unwonted sadness of expression on her countenance. Lord Harcourt rallied her upon it, and jokingly asked her what miserable dream she had had. After breakfast she confided to her husband that she dreamt she had seen Lord Harcourt's dead body extended upon the kitchen dresser at four o'clock that very day. Lord Nuneham treated the matter lightly. She could not, however, shake off her gloomy forebodings.

Lord Harcourt had a favourite dog, which generally accompanied him on his rambles; on this particular day the occupation he was engaged in was that of marking trees in the

Park, and setting out plots for planting. He had arrived at a spot which is now occupied by a yard behind the head-keeper's house, when his dog leaped over some bushes, and fell into a well which they concealed. The well was not deep, and was full of mud at the bottom.

Lord Harcourt leant over the side of the well, and endeavoured to extricate the dog. In so doing, he lost his balance, and himself fell in. The thick mud in which his head became imbedded, quickly smothered him. The dog made its way on to its master's heels, which were leaning against the side of the well. The piteous wailing of the dog in time attracted attention. Some labourers heard the sounds, and on approaching the well, perceived a hat and a right-hand glove; a further search soon revealed the dreadful nature of the accident. A ladder was procured, and the body having been extricated, was placed upon a gate, and conveyed to the house. The offices were first approached, and accordingly the bearers de-

posited the corpse upon the kitchen dresser, where, in exact accordance with Lady Nuneham's dream, it was lying at four o'clock, on September 16, 1777. Lord Harcourt was sixty-three years of age.

The event is thus noticed in the "Gentleman's Magazine" for 1777 :—

"Humanity, indeed, was the characteristic of this amiable Peer, no man being more justly beloved, or more generally regretted by his family, friends, and dependants. Among his friends, and consequently his mourners, may be reckoned the two greatest personages in this kingdom, of whom one esteemed him as a parental friend, and the other lamented him, she said, as her husband by proxy."

The matter is thus alluded to by Horace Walpole, in a letter addressed to Sir Horace Mann :—

*"Strawberry Hill, Sept. 18, 1777.*

"... A strange accident has happened. Lord Harcourt was missing the other day at dinner-time at his own seat; and at last was found suffocated in a well with his head downwards, and his dog upon him. It is concluded that the

dog had fallen in, and that the Earl, in trying to extricate him, had lost his poise and tumbled in too. It is an odd exit for the Governor of a King, Ambassador, and Viceroy."

Another letter, from Horace Walpole to the Rev. William Mason, also mentions the accident:—

*"Strawberry Hill, Sept. 18, 1777.*

".... This is not my immediate motive for writing; but to tell you an amazing piece of news that I have this moment received from town. The dinner-bell had rung—where? at Nuneham. The Earl (Lord Harcourt) did not appear. After much search, he was found standing on his head in a well, a dear little favourite dog upon his legs, his stick and one of his gloves lying near. ...."

The same writer, corresponding with the Countess of Ossory, says:—

*"Strawberry Hill, Sept. 20, 1777.*

".... What a strange exit Lord Harcourt's! I am sorry for anybody's misfortune, though I cannot dislike to see Lord Nuneham Earl; it is an addition to my concern for the poor father, as in all probability he perished by trying to save his dog. You know how that must teach *me*. ...."

In writing a few days afterwards to Lord Nuneham, Horace Walpole says :—

“I flatter myself my zeal will not appear too prompt in assuring your Lordship and Lady H. of the part I take in your late terrible shock. I wished to express it at the first moment; but trusted you both knew me too well to doubt of what I felt for you. I still write in pain lest I should be importunate, and beg you will not trouble yourself to answer me, as all I mean is to shew that I can never be insensible to anything that affects you.

“It may be some satisfaction to your Lordship to know that every letter brings a better account of the Duke of Gloucester. I will answer for the Duchess, that she is too sensible of your Lordship’s friendship not to share with me in all I have felt for you.”

The following letter was written by Charles Jenkinson, afterwards Earl of Liverpool, to Lady Nuneham, upon the occasion of Lord Harcourt’s death :—

*“Winchester, Sept. 24, 1777.*

“MADAM,—I received last night at this place the letter with which your Ladyship has honoured me. I will not tell your Ladyship all I feel on

this unhappy occasion : I will not add to your sorrow by dwelling on my own. I will only say, I have lost the oldest, and kindest, and dearest friend I had in the world ; my mind is so full, that it is with difficulty I contain my feelings. It would have become me rather to offer arguments to console your Ladyship ; but of this I am at present absolutely incapable. I beg my respects to the representative of my deceased friend ; I shall be happy to live in the closest connection and friendship with him ; and when I return to Town, I will take the very first opportunity of waiting on your Ladyship and his Lordship.

“I have the honour to be, with the highest respect and regard, Madam,

“Your faithful and obedient humble servant,

“C. JENKINSON.”

Letter from Mrs. Montagu to Lady Nuneham, on the same occasion :—

“*Sept.* 19, 1777.

“DEAR MADAM,—In your Ladyship’s and dear Lord Nuneham’s present situation, perhaps the most sympathizing friend is the best comforter, which is y<sup>e</sup> only consideration that can give me a hope of being of any use. Time’s lenient hand will heal in some degree the wound ; but you will both feel your best comfort in what makes the

principal joy of your lives, exerting your power of doing good. Providence has established such equitable laws, that whoever alleviates the sorrows of others, cannot himself be left the prey of melancholy. So the tears you dry, will at length dry up your own.

"I hope you will at present consider that, however sad this event is to you both, as Lord Harcourt had fulfilled every noble purpose of living, nothing of this would be to him untimely. Age, and infirmities the consequence of age, were not very distant. The philosopher who denied the epithet of happy to Ctesias in his power and prosperity, would now bestow it on him whom you lament.

"This evening I will wait upon you, and shall bring with me a heart that, as long as it beats, will truly feel everything that can affect your Ladyship and Lord Nuneham. . . .

"I am, dear Madam, with many unalterable sentiments, yours and your dear Lord's most affectionate, and faithful humble servant,

"E. MONTAGU."

The following address was presented to the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and adopted by the Corporation. The picture which is referred to, was painted by Hunter of Dublin,



and is a copy of one which still hangs in the dining-room at Nuneham.

“To the Hon. the Lord Mayor, &c.

“We feel with the utmost concern and regret the loss which this kingdom hath universally sustained by the death of our late amiable and respectable Ch.-Governor, Simon, Earl Harcourt ; whose sincere attachment and uniform zeal for the true interest of this country in general, as well as the particular attention he paid to the welfare of this city, have frequently been experienced by our magistrates during the Earl's residence amongst us.

“Your petitioners are therefore desirous, by some public testimony of their gratitude, to perpetuate their just sense of the many eminent virtues and amiable qualities of that much lamented nobleman. May it therefore please your Lordship and honor, to cause a portrait of his Lordship to be obtained, and placed in the Mansion House of their city, to testify to posterity our affectionate regard for the memory of so faithful and sincere a friend to this kingdom ; and we would pray that the Right Honorable the Lord Mayor should in the name of the city apply to the present Earl Harcourt, to permit an original picture, which we are informed is in his Lordship's possession, to be copied for the purpose.”

The following answer was sent by Lord Nuneham to the Lord Mayor of Dublin :—

*“Nov. 1, 1777.*

“MY LORD,—The great and almost singular honor done to the memory of my late much lamented father by the city of Dublin, and communicated to me last post by your Lordship, demands my warmest acknowledgements.

“Such a testimony of his public virtues is now peculiarly grateful to a son, who has ever before held his parental and domestic ones in the justest estimation.

“I shall immediately put the original portrait into the hands of the best copyist I can find; and as soon as he has executed it, transmit it to your Lordship for the honorable purpose that the city requests it.

“At a time when so fair, and in all probability the only, opportunity offers of expressing in so publick a manner my own particular gratitude to a nation from which I experienced so many repeated marks of regard, when it was my happiness to visit my father during his Vice Royalty, I should be wanting to myself, and to the sentiments of obligation which I sincerely feel, if I did not beg them to believe that through the course of that private life, which the mediocrity of my

abilities, my love of independence, and the distressed state of public affairs will prompt me to adopt, I shall ever retain the most affectionate esteem for them ; that I shall uniformly rejoyce in every augmentation of their prosperity, and sincerely lament if any sinister policy here should tend to diminish it.

“Allow me, my Lord, the honor of assuring your Lordship of my most perfect regard.”

Simon, Lord Harcourt, was buried at Stanton Harcourt, and a marble tablet was erected by his son in his memory.

Lord Harcourt had four children : George Simon, Viscount Nuneham, born August 1, 1736 ; the Hon. William Harcourt, born March 20, 1743 ; Lady Elizabeth Harcourt, born Jan. 18, 1738, married June 20, 1763, to Sir William Lee, Bart., of Hartwell in Buckinghamshire ; and Lady Anne Harcourt, who died young, and was buried at Stanton Harcourt.

George Simon, who succeeded his father as second Earl Harcourt, was of a delicate constitution, and of a nervous temperament. Like his father, he was sent abroad to com-

plete his education, and the following letters—written by him to his grandmother, Mrs. Harcourt (*née* Elizabeth Evelyn), and to his aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Harcourt, (his father's unmarried sister)—will give a better notion of what he was at the age of nineteen, than could perhaps be obtained in any other way.

As Lord Nuneham, he represented the Borough of St. Alban's in Parliament; and in the year 1765 he married his first cousin, Elizabeth Vernon, daughter of Lord Vernon and of Martha Harcourt (his father's sister).

His delicate health debarred him from the more active pursuits of hunting and shooting, in which his father delighted. He was a great devotee to art, both as a patron of others, and as an artist himself.

He was also a great student of antiquities; a lover of *belles lettres*, and of refined society; and very amiable in disposition.

“*Berlin, May 18, 1755.*

“DEAR MADAM,—... Our recommendation to Gotha (which was from the Prince of Wales) was such as could not fail of procuring us the reception

we could wish ; we stayed there three days, and were not a little wearied of it ; for at those little courts, you have no publick diversions nor assemblies in the town ; so that your whole life is spent at Court, where you go in the morning, and stay dinner, afterwards drink coffee, then return home for an hour, and go again to the card-parties, and then sup ; this, though a very honourable, you are sensible must be the most stupid life in the world ; one is so wearied with Royal personages, who talk of nothing but the weather, and their horrid old fribbly gentlemen ushers, that I could with difficulty keep myself sometimes from sleeping.

“At Dresden I stayed eight days, where, as I knew all the Court, I passed my time perfectly well, and thought myself quite at home ; as to the Court you are not plagued with that, for there is only a drawing-room, where neither the King or Queen come ; for they are like Persian monarchs, and hardly ever shew themselves in publick. The King's whole amusement is smoaking with his fools, and beating them ; and he every day finds some new torture for the poor devils.

“I went a heron hunting with their Majesties (as I was asked). I found it more disagreeable even than I was told it would be ; to get to the place early, you are obliged to travel all night ;

and when you are come, the whole amusement consists in staring as far, or rather farther than you can see, at the falcons following the herons ; and this, from an open gallery in the midst of a most extensive plain at six in the morning, is tolerably cold, particularly as the King being allways in the gallery, prevents your putting on a hat. Sometimes you are hours without seeing a bird ; but are continually staring to find one.

“The Queen sets in a hut, round which the gallery is built, and works with the ladies, from whence she often retires into a closet to her devotions ; the fools are all the time with some of them ; and the King, the ministers, the courtiers, and the ladies, amuse themselves with eating sauciges, and beating, kicking, pinching, and throwing things at the poor wretches, who are obliged to suffer everything from them. Then they pretend to quarrel with one another and fight, which diverts the company, who are greater fools than those who make a profession of it. After the excess of cold, your brains are turned with the sun before you come away, which is at noon ; before which you have a wretched, dirty dinner, dressed round the building by bad cooks, and the countrey people.

“I had the honour of dining with the King, where the fools behaved most indecently ; they quarulled, fought, threw everything about, were

very impertinent to the King and Queen, and the company; for the which he beat their legs most terribly with the napkins, and hit their heads and hands with the spoons. It was a more noisy, dirty, disagreeable dinner, than one at a county election; indeed, it shocked me to see such great people amuse themselves so shamefully, and to keep a set of poor animals, some without legs, some with an eye out, some deformed, others monstrous, for the sake of laughing at their infirmities; these seem to be merits, for there are but a few of the number who are really idiots, the rest are lazy, impertinent rascals, who pretend to be so, and often tell his Majesty disagreeable truths, for which he half murders them. I did intend to have put this letter up singly; but found I had wrote too much. Comp<sup>ts</sup> to M<sup>r</sup>. Vernon and my cousins."

*"Magdebourg, May 29, 1755.*

"DEAR MADAM,—I hope my grandmama received a letter I wrote to her from Berlin a few days ago, in which I told her of the civilities which were shown me; indeed, I must say, I think myself uncommonly fortunate, that wherever I am, I should be treated with so much politeness. I supped at the Queen Mother's every night that I was not engaged in the town; which I believe in all was five or six times. I always

preferred passing my evening there, as I was as much at my ease as at home. I talked with every one, walked in the garden with the Princesses, and was very often quite alone, which was to foreigners a surprising thing, for they think it is impossible to prefer one's own thoughts to those of others, even if disagreeable to one ; so that they teased me on those occasions with having the spleen ; on my denying of which, they said they would not believe anything that I said on that subject, as there never was yet an Englishman that had not that distemper.

“Can you conceive the absurdity of laying down general rules for the temper of a whole nation? though, as their ignorance of our customs, &c., renders their talking of them with such confidence the more insupportable, so it gives them the greater desire of showing how little they know about us. Their idea of an Englishman is this:—A creature that whenever he speaks says ‘G—d—n ;’ that is very rich, but very awkward ; that goes to court and the House of Peers in a bob-wig and English frock ; that has no politeness to woman ; that eats nothing but ‘ros beef’ and ‘bouding ;’ and gets drunk every day after it with ‘poanch,’ which they think to be our only liquor.”



“Nov. 8.

“DEAR MADAM,—It was on the 29th of October, 1755, that we left Vienna, and set out for Trieste, in the way to Venice . . . and I hoped to find the people and customs, at a place so very near Italy as Trieste, more civilized ; but such was our misfortune, that after having travelled from five in the morning till eight at night that day, and flattering ourselves with being tolerably off at a place so much frequented by merchants, they were so brutal as not to receive us at the best inn, though they had no company in the house ; and we were reduced to go to a little miserable sailors’ ale-house, which was full of all kinds of the worst of the mob. Mr. Denny would never have survived the noise they made under us ; for unhappily there was a ball, and you know that the mirth of soldiers and sailors is none of the most quiet or best conducted ; besides which, our room opened into the common drinking-room, which was stuffed with people, some of whom were quarelling, some talking all at once, and others laughing *à gorge déployée* ; add to that the shrillness of the women’s voices, with whom they were playing, the screams of a child and the quarelling, and you may have some idea of our concert.

“I had near omitted one most agreeable circumstance, which was, that our room was the only one

that had a stove in it, so that they never ceased coming in to dry their sprinkled sheets and napkins, and fetch out plate, knives, linnen, and all the other things that the guests demanded."

"DEAR MADAM,— . . . I quite agree with you in giving the preference to antient Rome; for what beauties modern Rome can boast, are merely what it owes to the splendor and magnificence of its antient inhabitants; for every house and church that is rich in marble, is what they have torn from antient buildings; for so very gothic are they, that they pull down the paintings from the baths, the pillars and ornaments from the temples, and the porphery sarcophagus from the mausoleums, as soon as they discover any, to saw to pieces for the churches, or to sell for tables.

"I have heard that Livia's mausoleum was quite intire, and had a great number of fine porphery urns and ornaments in it, when it was discovered; but that they immediately pulled everything down to sell."

"*Rome, Dec. 15, 1755.*

"DEAR MADAM,— . . . I have been so very highly amused since I have been in Italy, that I have almost forgot the twelve horrid months I passed in Germany, which, seriously speaking, were disagreeable to me beyond conception; and I allmost began to have *la maladie du pais*. I lived all the

time either at Leipzig, where a rational animal was not to be found, or at petty courts, which has such an etiquet that wearies you to death, and at the same time are in such an aukward, sneaking manner, that I was shocked at their nonsense. . . .

“At first I thought I might be excused going again to sup at Court, after having been there three or four hours at dinner with eating; but I unhappily found my mistake, and that I must not only submit to that, but retire from dinner to drink coffee with old maids of honor, dressed just like the eldest Miss Cope, the strangest of all mortals; from thence either go to play at shilling whist, or threepenny quadrille with the old Duke or Duchess, or the Duchess’s mother, when there was one, or else stand formally to see them play (which I preferred); then at eight sup as I dined, and from thence retire to a Court circle of about eight or ten strange figures.

“Pope’s description of a certain family in the waxwork, suits most of the royal personages I have seen:—

“‘Such waxen noses, stately, staring things,  
No wonder some folks bow and think them kings.’

“Yours dutifully.—I have no more room.”

*"Rome, April 9, 1756.*

".... I am much obliged to you for the trouble you have had with regard to my friend M<sup>rs</sup>. Pritchard<sup>p</sup>. I must own, I have a regard for her; and cannot help feeling for the poor woman and her family, which will be greatly injured if she is so ill-treated by that inhuman monster, Garrick. He is certainly the vainest, most spiteful, covetous puppy, that ever existed; and is jealous of every one that gains applause, which he thinks no one but himself and Cibber deserve.

"I have been some years astonished at the blindness of the world in thinking him so great; for myself I look upon him as our best, but, except in two or three characters, a vulgar false player, and who has spoiled the stage by substituting the rant, stare, and squirt, in the place of just speaking and common sense, which he hardly ever yet arrived at, either in tragedy or comedy. ....

"My duty attends my grandmama."

*"Saturday.*

"HONORED MADAM,—.... To a young person nothing but a convent can be worse than the life of this family<sup>q</sup>, in the months of November and December. For there are few visitors then; and this year it will be worse than ever, as they will pass them at Newnham, in an unfurnished house, and without room for company. I have promised

<sup>p</sup> The actress.

<sup>q</sup> At Cokethorp.

to make them a visit in December with Col. Evelyn; as they will be at a reasonable distance from London, and as it is an inhabited country, and the roads are the whole way excellent, it will be no great affair; but I had always a horror of quitting the gay London for the dreary Cockthorp, and of going the last twelve miles, four of which for dirt and sloughs do not yield to the agreeable Westphalia.

"I suppose you must know of my brother's quitting the Guards, and of the advantageous permission he has obtained to raise a light troop. We expect him here every hour; we breathe nothing now but military strains, and were my Aunt here, I do not know but that our warlike conversation might have such an effect on her as to induce her to fire a gun herself for amusement, and to drink in a bumper confusion to the French and their blondes.

"I am, your most dutiful and very affect' grandson.

"My duty to my Aunt.

"Mr. Byng is not yet executed, nor is it known when he will; various are the reports concerning him; some say the King has left it to the Lords of the Admiralty to pardon or confirm the sentence of the court martial, as they shall think proper. But I must own, I do not think his Majesty would ever give up his right to them."

When Lord Harcourt died, his son, Lord Nuneham, imagined that the King did not pay sufficient respect to his father's memory; and this, he being of a sensitive nature, led to his absenting himself from the Court for a period of six years. His pique exhibited itself in various droll manners. His self-chosen banishment was brought to an end by an act of grace on the King's part, when, as is often the case under such circumstances, it was made to appear that many of the supposed causes of complaint were due to the workings of a morbid imagination.

It is, however, quite likely that the Wilkes' episode in Lord Nuneham's career, was not entirely effaced from the royal memory. Be that as it may, the reconciliation proved to be the commencement of a sincere and worthy friendship on either side, between the King and the subject.

In illustration of Lord Nuneham's (or as we must now call him Lord Harcourt's) vagaries during his retirement, it may be

mentioned that he made a present to Lord Jersey of pictures of the King and Queen, which the King had presented to his father ; these pictures now hang in the hall at Middleton ; he also caused the coronet to be removed from the pannel of his carriage ; this absurdity gave rise to the following playful copy of verses from the pen of Countess Talbot :—

“Ye femmes savantes, ye beaux esprits lament,  
(As sure ye will) the sad, the dire event ;  
Weep, weep ye arts, let taste her fate deplore,  
Her patron’s gone, Lord Nuneham is no more.

“Where can we now the Virtuoso find,  
Or sentiments so soft, polite, refined ;  
Who now remains that’s able to explore,  
Le vrai bon ton ? Lord Nuneham is no more.

“’Tis true a gentle youth his air assumes,  
Affects his dress, his manners, his perfumes ;  
In hopes those arts that charmed us heretofore  
May please—though now, Lord Nuneham is no more.

“And as his car we pass, he brings to mind  
Our Viscount in that attitude reclined ;  
But when we see no coronet on the door,  
We sigh, and say, ‘ Lord Nuneham is no more.’”

Horace Walpole, writing to Mason, in a letter dated Berkeley-square, Feb. 2, 1784, says :—

“I am surprised that you expected me to take notice of Lord Harcourt’s turning courtier. It did not astonish me in the least, as I have known for near two years that such an event was by no means uncertain, and did myself try to contribute to it, when I thought it not at all irreconcilable with his former conduct ; nor do I wonder at your announcing in effect the same of yourself. Were I surprised, I should contradict one of my own maxims, which I have never or scarce known fail, and which is that men are always most angry with those with whom they quarrel least, which generally produces reconciliations between those whose hatreds agree ; but, in truth, I concern myself with no man’s politics but my own ; first, because I have no more right to dictate to others than I will allow anybody to dictate to me ; and, secondly, because I can see into no heart but my own, nor know its real motives of action. It made me smile, indeed, when I heard that Lord Harcourt, on his change, had given away his ring of Brutus, who died 1700 years before the coalition was thought on. I am glad, however, that if I change, I may keep my Caligula without committing treason. . . .”



Mr. Cuninghame, in his edition of Walpole's Letters, gives an explanation of the foregoing letter, by quoting an extract from a book called "Walpoliana."

The following is Walpole's explanation, given in his own handwriting. Side by side with this, I shall place a letter which Walpole had previously written to Lady Harcourt, together with Lady Harcourt's notes upon the subject. Walpole's anger against Lord Harcourt was of short duration :—

"Mr. Mason, George Simon Harcourt, and Mr. Horace Walpole were intimate friends, and agreed in condemning the King's severe measures ; but at the end of the year 1783, when Mr. Charles Fox produced his famous India bill, Mr. Mason and Lord Harcourt, without even the slightest notice to Mr. Walpole, changed sides totally. And though Mr. Walpole dined with the Earl in private but the very day before Lord Harcourt voted against the bill, he did not drop a syllable of his intentions, nor his design of going to Court, which he had not done for some years ; yet he had acquainted Mr. Mason, or rather, I believe, had been persuaded by him secretly to take those steps ;

and when they were taken, Mr. Mason wrote an authoritative letter to Mr. Walpole, approving his conduct, and presumptuously flattering himself, even without giving any reason for their total tergiversation, that he should influence Mr. Walpole to take the same part. Mr. Walpole thought it became him to treat such treacherous and impertinent behaviour as it deserved; and to let Mr. Mason see that with all his admiration for Mr. Mason's satiric abilities in poetry, Mr. Walpole neither feared his anger, nor would suffer him to govern his principles.

"Mr. Walpole's answer received none, and though Mr. Mason continued to visit him for a year or two, a total coolness ensued, and all correspondence by letters ceased. Lady Harcourt, who, during Lord Rockingham's short administration, had overwhelmed Mr. Walpole with letters, two or three in a day, to get her Lord a place, which he had tried in vain to do, was made Lady of the Bedchamber, and she and her Lord became a proverb even to courtiers of the most servile attachment to their Majesties, though both had foresworn St. James's on the King's and Queen's neglect of them on the unfortunate death of the Earl's father; and his Lordship, besides wearing a ring of Brutus, with the dagger and Ides of March, had given away the portraits of the King and Queen, their presents to the late Earl. The

Opposition had for many years complained of that knot of devotees to the Court, who affected to call themselves the King's friends; and nobody had been more determined against them than Lord Harcourt and Mason."

Walpole's letter to Lady Harcourt:—

"I think it impossible, Madam, that something should not be offered to Lord Harcourt; though they who do not ask will be thought on last. They who have lost places will be very clamorous, and some who deserve none will not be less vociferous.

"Though I had got Mr. Conway all ready to name the jewel office to the Duke of Richmond, the moment I received the honour of your Ladyship's first note this morning, I wrote to his Grace myself, and begged something proper might be offered to Lord Harcourt, and that it might not be the bedchamber. I told him I asked nothing for myself; on the contrary, I begged no favour might be shewn to me about any places, if they found it necessary to make any re-formation. The Duke was not at home, nor have I heard from him; but I am as satisfied as if I had the most favourable answer, that he will do all in his power to please Lord Harcourt; though I know enough of Lord Rockingham, by what I saw in his former administration, to forget that he will engross all

the power he can to himself, and communicate as little as possible to the Duke and Mr. Conway, though so much greater men than himself.

“I am sorry that, on this occasion, they are the only two of whom, insignificant as I am myself, I would condescend to ask a favour. It is I feel, Madam, presumptuous in me to talk of asking a favour for Lord Harcourt; but I knew he would not ask one for himself, nor have allowed one to be asked for him. Being sensible of those two points, and knowing that in such a scramble a minister cannot refuse many who are pressing, for one who does not intimate a wish, (which I must, in fair justice, conclude is Lord Rockingham’s case), I did take on me to remind the Duke of Richmond, though perhaps Lord Harcourt may think I had taken an impertinent liberty with his name. I shall certainly not be ignorant or vain enough to ascribe any share to myself, should my idea succeed; as Lord Harcourt’s virtues, rank, and zeal in the cause, entitle him to every distinction; while I am nobody, nor can claim any interest but with my relation and oldest friend, Mr. Conway, and in the goodness the Duke of Richmond has long had for me. Indeed, so far from pretending interest with the party, I shall, as I did in former administrations, have as little as possible to do with any one of them, but with my two most virtuous friends, of

whom I am indeed proud, but who will have, I am sure, no power beyond their own provinces.

“The Marquis and Lord Shelburne will have a constant struggle for favour and power, and will probably aid the King to recover the ground he has lost either by their flattery or their quarrels. Something I hope will be done for the nation before this happens ; but what is not done soon, is not done at all.

“I am so apprehensive of having gone too far in my zeal for Lord Harcourt, that I wish him not to know it. Your Ladyship may be assured that I am too conscious of my indiscretion not to keep it an absolute secret ; nor shall a soul know it but your Ladyship, and the two persons I have mentioned. I have the honour to be, with the utmost respect,

“Your Ladyship’s most obedient servant,

“H. WALPOLE.

“*Berkeley-square, March 17, 1782.*”

What follows is Lady Harcourt’s note upon the above letter :—

“At the time the Ministry was changed, Mr. Walpole, who was much attached to Lord Harcourt, wished to have some compliment paid to him ; and hoped that the offer of some honourable situation, whether he accepted it or not,

might be the means of drawing him a little out of the retirement he was too much inclined to indulge in. Mr. Walpole spoke to me on the subject, desired me to consider it, and write my opinion to him; finding that it agreed with his, he took the step mentioned in this letter.

“No offer was then made to Lord Harcourt; but, when Mr. Pitt came into the Ministry, in the year 1783, he, unsolicited, proposed to him the embassy to Spain. Lord Harcourt declined it; but, thinking the King had been ill-treated by the old Ministry, and that the new one ought to be supported, he returned to Court, from whence he had absented himself for six years.”

In the following year, Mr. Pitt asked Lord Harcourt to move the address in the House of Lords :—

“*Downing Street, May 14, 1784.*”

“MY LORD,—The liberty which I am going to take, your Lordship will, I hope, attribute to the just sense I set on the support with which, I flatter myself, you honor the present Government. You will forgive me if I am anxious to avail myself, as far as you will permit me, of a circumstance so flattering and honorable. I should, therefore, esteem it a particular obligation if you will allow me to hope that your Lordship would undertake

to move the Address in the House of Lords on the opening of the session. Lord Sydney will be happy to have the honor of communicating to you the intended Speech, if you will permit him.

"At such a moment as the present, such a mark of your Lordship's confidence and favorable opinion, would indeed afford me singular satisfaction.

"I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect and regard, my Lord,

"Your Lordship's most obedient and faithful humble servant,

"W. PITT."

The Memoir of George Simon, Lord Harcourt, will be continued in another volume.

The wealth of correspondence is so great between Lord and Lady Harcourt, and various distinguished personages, that the only difficulty lies in selecting typical letters to illustrate the times, and to preserve family records, and in abstaining from printing letters of minor importance.

A moderate degree of success in this endeavour is all that can be looked for; indeed, any very rigid observance of such

a salutary maxim, need not be insisted upon in private volumes of family history.

A digression must now be made for the purpose of giving an account of Nuneham, which will occupy the concluding chapter of this volume.

Lord Harcourt's own printed account of Nuneham will be first given; then extracts from various writers will be quoted; and, lastly, a complete list and description of the pictures will be added.

The two following volumes will be occupied with the special subjects of the King's illness, and Mrs. Harcourt's letters from abroad; and in the sixth volume, the thread of the family history will be resumed.

In the meantime, a correspondence is inserted between Lord and Lady Temple, and Lord and Lady Nuneham: two letters from William, Duke of Gloucester, and a strange document of the Duchess of Queensberry's, are also added.



Earl Temple to Lady Nuneham :—

“MADAM,—With great pleasure I obey your Ladyship’s commands ; and have the honour to inform you that Lady Temple’s gout is vanished, and has scarce left any other remains than the pleasing recollection of the kind interest which you take in her welfare. In this light she sees it ; and for myself, I am most happy in having this opportunity afforded me of telling your Ladyship in very good earnest, under my hand and seal, how much I *love* and honour you ; as I can, with great truth, make use of the same expressions towards your imperious lord and master.

“You will not be offended at this honest effusion of my heart ; and you will permit me, under that cover, to add, that I am very unhappy at your long continuance in the country ; that I protest most vehemently against this tyranny of Flora ; and that I ardently wish you would bring all your own *natural* roses to town, most lovely when unassisted by any hands but those of health and modesty, and far surpassing the product of any parlour, French or English.

“In this rapture, I formally offer myself as your true, sworn, and gallant knight, instantly to come down, with a flying chaise and four, to deliver you from captivity, and from the cruel hands of the merciless enchanter ; you shall be brought in

triumph to town; I will invest you with full command over me and mine; and I will show that I am master over every thing else in my own house. If she does not like it, e'en let her take your place at Nuneham.

"Though I am not yet quite so vain as Malvolio, when he cross-gartered, yet I have assurance enough to tell you, with all the warmth of an enamoured swain, and with all the sincere respect of an elder who has almost reached his grand climacterick, that I am most entirely your Ladyship's, and may I add, however ungallantly, his Lordship's,

"Most devoted, and obedient humble servant,

"TEMPLE.

*"Pall Mall, Dec. 1, 1772."*

Lady Temple to Lady Nuneham :—

*"Pall Mall, December 16, 1773.*

"DEAR MADAM,—I take the first opportunity of returning thanks in my Lord's name, as well as my own, for your very kind letter to Elizabeth concerning us. We came home last night from Lord Clare's, where we have been a fortnight. We spent our time very agreeably; we went out a dozen or fourteen miles every morning; had our party every evening, and music whenever we called for it; the master of the house in high

spirits; the daughter in high beauty, and always amiable. He was miserable to part with us, so that I was not sure we might not have staid there for the next seven years, for we doubled the time we intended. However, we had an alloy to our pleasures, for my Lord got a fever, which was removed by James' Powder and asses' milk in three or four days; it is the first time he has taken it, but will not be the last upon the like occasion.

"I hear you please mightily in Ireland; as to your good Lord, he does not care a farthing whether he pleases or not, except myself, therefore I am very willing to monopolize him; but you are a common woman, and bestow your favours upon everybody. However, go on and prosper, for I would have you admired; and, like charity, cover a multitude of sins, not of your own, but of your husband's.

"Now, assuring your Ladyship we are in perfect health, we remain, dear Lady Nuneham's, and dear Lord Nuneham's, most affectionate, obedient humble servants,

"TEMPLE.

"ANNA TEMPLE."

Lady Temple to Lady Nuneham :—

*"Bath, October 18, 1775.*

"MY dear Lady Nuneham's letter gave me great comfort in telling me you were getting

better. Time is indeed a great physician ; but not able to do anything without the assistance of his patient. I therefore beg you will make use of all your fortitude to keep up your spirits, and drive away as much as possible melancholy ideas. The waters agree with my Lord very well ; he really fattens every day. As to myself, I have lost the use of one hand ; as you are my friend, I will tell you it is with hard drinking. You are to understand by this that I have the gout in my hand, a very good excuse when I have not a mind to write letters ; but I cannot avail myself of it to you, it would be too great a self-denial ; I therefore put my best hand foremost. I should have been happy to have seen you at home, because I thought change of scene might have been of use to you ; but we would not press it.

“The Bath is excessively agreeable—for it is very empty. I can say nothing about a fixed time for London, because I do not know when we leave this place. Good Lord ! I have not said a word of Lord Nuneham ; to be sure that is a sign *I do not love him so well as I do you* ; however, give the kindest of all compliments to him, both from my Lord and myself ; and my Lord says a million of affectionate things to you, and of you. My paper will not hold out for more than assuring you I am ever yours,

“A. TEMPLE.”

Earl Temple to Lord Nuneham :—

*"Pall Mall, April 16, 1777.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—One, who to my irretrievable misfortune is now no more, having entertained the highest esteem, love, and respect for your Lordship and Lady Nuneham, was desirous of leaving a small token of it to both. I am therefore, on her part, to beg your Lordship's acceptance of a picture of me, done by Rosalba <sup>r</sup>.

"As she set a value, from the partiality of her friendship, on the original, she thought it might not be unwelcome to you, especially as she was no stranger to the sentiments I have always entertained with regard to you, and the real honour I have for you. A ruby ring, set round with diamonds, she hoped Lady Nuneham would please to accept. I will have the honour of sending both, and remain to both the dear friends of poor Lady Temple and myself, most unalterably and affectionately devoted,

"TEMPLE."

From William Henry, Duke of Gloucester,  
to Lord Nuneham :—

*"Gloucester Lodge, July 18, 1773.*

"MY LORD,—As we are very desirous of seeing Nuneham and Oxford, I shall be much obliged to

<sup>r</sup> This is an exquisite example of the master ; it hangs in the North Corridor at Nuneham.

you if you will fairly tell me what day within these ten days will be most convenient to you and Lady Nuneham for us to come to you. We propose bringing Lt.-Coll. Heywood and Mrs. Heywood with us. The Dutchess and myself join in compliments to L<sup>y</sup> Nuneham.

“Yours, &c.,

“WILLIAM HENRY.”

From William Henry, Duke of Gloucester,  
to Lord Nuneham :—

*“Gloucester Lodge, July 21, 1773.*

“MY LORD,—Since you say you are not engaged at present, we will be with you on Friday evening next between eight and nine o'clock. We desire both our compliments to L<sup>y</sup> Nuneham. I am sure, my Lord, I feel myself much obliged to you for your many attentions to me.

“I am, yours, &c.,

“WILLIAM HENRY.”

DUCHESS OF QUEENSBURY.

1769.

The Duchess of Queensbury was daughter to the Earl of Rochester, and the greatest beauty of her time. She was the friend of Gay, and was forbid the Court on account

of her patronizing the Opera of "Polly," in which the Government was satirized. When she received the message, she returned in answer,—

"The Duchess of Queensbury is *surprised*, but well *pleased*, at receiving so agreeable an order as that to forbid her appearing at Court, where she never went for her own amusement, but to bestow her great civilities upon the King and Queen."

She lived to see the Opera revived in the reign of George the Third, and to see him and the Queen at it. She considered this as a triumph; and her great exultation, added to the heat of the weather, brought on a fever that occasioned her death. She had a great deal of wit; and, having lived in the best society, and been very intimate with Pope, Swift, Gay, and the most celebrated men of their time, was full of anecdotes, which, added to the singularity of her character (of which the note on this paper is a proof), made her very entertaining. She was celebrated in the ballad "Kitty, beautiful and young." In another copy of verses

as "Blooming Hyde, beyond compare." She died at a very advanced age, and retained great remains of beauty to the last.

"DEAR LORD AND LADY NUMAN,—Prepare yourselves for a strange proposall without plea—more than that necess'ty has no law, and you are good; & ho, it is in a word, to desire you to be of our ball intended immediallly after the Holliday; & that you will be quit off the Ball for next tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup>, for we have not room for you & some others. You are so good to suffer *postponment*. Keep this to yourselves pray, & pray pray pray pray forgive,

"CATHERINE QUEENSBURY."



A DESCRIPTION OF  
NUNEHAM.



## A Description of Huneham.

THE original scheme for the building of the house appears to have been simple enough. Leadbeater was desired by Lord Harcourt to make a plan for a house in one block; to consist of a basement for cellars and offices, a ground floor for vestibules, a first floor for parlours, a second floor for bedrooms, and an attic for servants.

In this plan everything was sacrificed to the development of the spacious apartments on the first floor. The entrance-hall was dwarfed, the offices were sunk under ground, and the bedrooms were contracted into insignificance.

Great care had been bestowed upon the selection of a site; and the only exception that could be taken to it was, that the falling nature of the ground afforded but little scope for the operations of the architect. It became evident, even before the original house

was completed, that the accessories were wholly inadequate to the requirements of the principal parts of the building.

Much ingenuity was exhibited in adding what was required ; but the proceedings tell their own tale, and the result is seen, in a house without pretensions to beauty, which covers a large quantity of ground in a very irregular manner.

The first addition was made in the shape of two wings, united to the centre by corridors running north and south. These wings were, in the first instance, supposed to contain simply the offices, and the corridors were intended to consist of only one story.

It was soon found that the wings would be required for the accommodation of a library, of sitting-rooms, and of bedrooms ; and that the corridors also must be raised. This made it necessary to add another building at right angles to one of the wings for kitchens and other offices <sup>a</sup>. Again, more ser-

<sup>a</sup> These alterations were made under the advice of "Capability" Brown.

vants' bedrooms were required, and a space was found for them in a separate block beyond the offices. Then came a proposition to build a handsome entrance-hall, with additional lobbies. Mr. Carr, of York, furnished a plan for the purpose. This scheme, however, was abandoned on account of the expense.

Lastly, Archbishop Harcourt built an entirely new wing, terraces, parapets, and out-buildings of various descriptions.

The stables, laundry, and dairy, were erected at some little distance from the house.

The house is approached from the Park by a slight declivity, which gives it the appearance of being placed in a hole. On arriving, however, at the terraces upon the other side of the house, the visitor is at once disabused of this idea, and sees an extensive prospect opened out, with the river some sixty feet below him.

On entering the house, a low vestibule formed with arches leads to an oval staircase of an ornamental character; upon as-

cending this staircase, the ante-room is found on the right hand, the dining-room in front, and the octagon drawing-room on the left hand. The ante-room is thirty feet long by sixteen feet broad, and eighteen feet six inches high. This room is generally used for meals, when the party staying in the house is a small one.

The aspect of the ante-room is east, looking into the Park, with several fine elm-trees in the foreground; a door on the right hand leads into the great drawing-room, a door on the left hand leads into the north corridor, and one on the east side of the room opens on to a back staircase. The walls are ornamented by various pictures, which will hereafter be described.

The great drawing-room is forty-nine feet long, by twenty-four feet broad, and eighteen feet six inches high; the ceiling was designed by Stuart, and the mantel-piece by Paul Sandby. The walls are hung with crimson damask. The view from the window is very beautiful; a balcony in front of

the drawing-room leads by steps down on to the terraces. On the right hand as you enter the great drawing-room, a door leads into the octagon drawing-room, whilst a door opposite leads into the south corridor. The octagon drawing-room is thirty feet by twenty-four, and eighteen feet six inches high; a pleasanter room it would be impossible to find, and the views from the windows are very fine; the walls are painted a light green with gold decorations. A door opposite leads into the great dining-room, and one on the right opens on to the central staircase. The great dining-room is forty-one feet long by twenty-four feet broad, and eighteen feet six inches high in the centre, fifteen feet high under the columns,—the aspect of the dining-room is north. The south corridor, which is also hung with pictures, leads out of the great drawing-room to the library.

The library is thirty-three feet long by twenty feet broad, and fourteen feet high; above the books are pictures of the poets,

many of them presents from themselves. Beyond the library is the inner library; and beyond that, again, are the state apartments, hung with crimson velvet; here her Majesty Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, Queen Adelaide, and other members of the royal family were lodged when they came to Nuneham. Turning to the left is the centre south corridor, out of which a staircase opens, which leads upstairs to numerous bedrooms, and downstairs to the offices.

The centre corridor is hung with pictures, and contains cabinets of old china. Bedrooms also open out of it. The north corridor, which is likewise hung with pictures, and ornamented with cabinets, leads into what is called the family wing of the house; the first room that is reached is a very pleasant sitting-room, thirty-two feet long, by nineteen feet broad, and fourteen feet high. A balcony leads down from it by some steps into a private garden, which adjoins one of the terraces. Beyond this sitting-room are bedrooms and dressing-



rooms, with a pleasant view into the gardens. A staircase here leads upstairs and downstairs to bedrooms; and below is another sitting-room of smaller size, with a door into the gardens.

Passing now along the lower corridor, the smoking and billiard-rooms are found; and a passage leads out on to the terraces. The lower south corridor leads to the numerous offices, and another flight of stairs to the cellars. From this corridor there is also access to the front approach on one side, and to the terraces on the other.

Above the principal apartments are suites of bedrooms, and over these again are the servants' attics. The house is throughout lighted by gas, and warmed by hot-water pipes,—it is capable of accommodating seventy persons.

Lord Harcourt begins his description thus,—

“Description of Nuneham Courtenay in 1806, by George Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

“Nuneham Courtenay being situated near a very public road, and at the distance of only five

miles from Oxford, is visited by most of those persons who travel to see that beautiful and celebrated city (which can boast of a combination of magnificence with picturesque scenery not to be met with in any other); and Nuneham is likewise an object of curiosity to many of the invalids, who in the beginning of summer (which according to the new edition of Fashion's Kalendar, commences when the days are shortening, and the Opera-house is shut up) fly for relief from imaginary disorders, and real *ennui*, to the rural delights of crowded card-rooms, suffocating balls, and ill-acted plays, at one of the most frequented of the all-healing springs<sup>b</sup>, the road to which passes through the village.

"Among such a variety of persons, there may possibly be a few to whom a more circumstantial description than is to be found in the Oxford Guides may be acceptable, and for their use is this now printed: for we should be sorry to delay any of those hasty travellers, who desire to be shewn only just as much of the place as can be hurried over in a quarter of an hour, or who glance at the pictures when it is dusk, or view the prospects from the gardens, after candles have been for some time lighted in the house.

"The Catalogue of the Pictures, with the observations upon them, was drawn up by the Hon<sup>ble</sup>

<sup>b</sup> Cheltenham.

Horace Walpole, (afterwards Earl of Orford), and Sr Joshua Reynolds ; for the possessor of them, though he may have daubed half-a-dozen paultry landscapes in oyl, have etched a few tollerable plates, and made not a few intollerable drawings, has not therefore the presumption to so fancy himself a judge of painting.

“At the general Survey this manor belonged to Richard de Courcy ; afterwards to the family of Riparys, or Redvers. Mary, youngest daughter of Wm. de Redvers, Earl of Devon, (who, as well as his uncle William, was surnamed de Vernon,) married Robert de Courtenay, Baron of Okehampton, in 1214 ; it is probable that by this marriage the manor of Nuneham passed into the family of Courtenay, and thence assumed the name of Nuneham-Courtenay.

“After them succeeded the Pollards ; Sir John Pollard of Devon. From them it passed to —. Audley of the Court of Wards, called the rich Audley.

“From him to Robert Wright, Bishop of Lichfield, whose son, Calvert Wright, sold it to John Robinson of London, Merchant (temp. Ol. Cromwell), Knighted in 1660, and made Lieutenant of the Tower.

“From the Robinsons it descended to David, Earl of Wemys, (who married Mary, daughter and co-heir of Sir John Robinson, Baronet,) from

whom it was purchased in the year 1710, by Simon, first Lord Harcourt, Lord Chancellor of England.

“THE PARK.

“In which are ‘scenes worthy of the bold pencil of Rubens, or to be subjects for the tranquil sunshines of Claude de Lorraine,’ contains twelve hundred acres; and from a drive that leads round the inner part of it, are views of the Wittenham hills, of those of Buckinghamshire<sup>d</sup>, and the range of hills which rise above the Vale of White Horse:—the drive is also continued through the wood, that falls with a steep descent towards the Thames, which flows at the foot of it; and in this part, the right-hand bank is very abruptly and picturesquely broken by bold and steep projections. To the left, the river is sometimes seen between the stems of trees, and sometimes concealed by the intervening underwood, which in one part is kept low, in order to admit a view of the river, of the house, with the knoll upon which it is placed, and of the mass of trees that form its back-ground<sup>e</sup>. On quitting the wood, there is a different view of the house and of the river,

<sup>e</sup> Walpole’s “Anecdotes of Painters.”      <sup>d</sup> The Chiltern Hills.

<sup>e</sup> “A little farther to the left, a path leads to two picturesque cottages, situated near the river; of which, and of the bold woody bank that rises above it, the bridge commands an advantageous view.”

and the prospect is terminated by Shotover-hill ; the drive then circles round a grove, and passes by the ancient Conduit of Carfax, of which the following extract from a MS. in the Bodleian Library is a description :—

“ ‘This Conduit was erected in the year 1610, by Otho Nicholson, M.A., of Christ Church ; he was afterwards Treasurer to King James I.

“ ‘The building is an exact square ; the arms of the University, City, and Founder, are under the cornice ; at each corner above it are placed as many sun-dials, and between each are carved in open-work the initials of the Founder’s name, with a sun, and mermaids holding mirrors and combs. From the angles of the base spring four arches, which, uniting at the top, support a small octagon ; beneath it is a cistern, above which is Q. Maud riding upon an ox over a ford, in allusion to the name of Oxford ; the water being conveyed into the cistern through the ox ; from it proceeds a pipe, which runs wine upon extraordinary occasions.

“ ‘Above the foot of each arch is one of the supporters of the arms of England, viz.—the Antelope, used by K. Henry VIII., the Dragon by Q. Elizabeth, and the Lion and the Unicorn : each holds a banner, with the quarterings of the royal arms. Between the supporters are various ornaments, such as boys, obelisks, &c. Upon the

outside of the four arches are the four cardinal virtues ; and in each niche of the octagon is a statue with a gilt crown and sceptre. They represent the seven Worthies, with our worthy K. James I., who made up the eighth, and are as follows :— K. David, Alexander, Godfroi de Bouillon, Arthur, Charlemagne, Hector, Julius Cæsar. Each figure bears a shield, containing his device, or coat of arms. Between the niches are the figures of women upwards, and scales of fish below ; and beneath them are placed interchangeably the royal badges of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland. Above the cornice of the dome are smaller figures representing the liberal sciences, one of which is Orpheus with his harp, and other musical instruments. On the top of the building stand two figures under a canopy, back to back, to represent Janus ; the one is of an old man holding a shield, whereon is carved a bat with wings displayed ; the other, of a young woman holding a sceptre. Above this is a vane, and over that a cross.

“‘N.B. The name of the building is probably a corruption of the French words, *quatre faces*, or of *carrefour*, from the situation in which it was placed, where four streets met. It originally stood at the end of the High-street, Oxford ; and having been taken down in the year 1787, was presented by the University to Earl Harcourt,

who caused it to be removed to its present situation.'

"On returning towards the house, in one particular spot, Oxford is seen to more advantage than from any other part of the drive—the point of view is, where the ground falls abruptly towards a large groupe of trees, in a hollow bottom, whose tops uniting, form a broad base to the town, and give it an artificial elevation. The immediate approach to the house being on a descent, has no other beauty than what it derives from three groupes of large spreading elms, which being connected by side-screens of trees with the wings of the building, every distant object is excluded, and from that circumstance, the rich and extensive prospect from the apartments in the back front appears more striking. . . .

"THE GARDENS,

"Which (except the north terrace and flower-garden) were laid out and planted by Brown<sup>f</sup>, contain thirty-eight acres; and from the 'knoll'<sup>g</sup> on which the house is situated, command an extensive prospect over all the intervening flat, as far as the towers of Oxford. In another direction, it overlooks the windings of the Thames towards Abingdon. These grand views, terminated by

<sup>f</sup> Lancelot Brown, commonly called "Capability" Brown.

<sup>g</sup> Gilpin's "Tours," vol. i.



the Berkshire hills and other rising grounds, compose the distance, and are presented from different places around the house, and in the pleasure-ground. The accompaniment also of noble trees on the foreground, sets off the distant scenery to great advantage.'

"In passing the arcade on the north side of the house, the west end of the church, the entrance to which is a semi-rotunda of columns supporting a dome, is seen through an opening in the trees, and appears like a small temple; the path then rounds the top of a slope, broken with groups of trees, over which Radley, the seat of Sir George Bowyer, is seen, with the church, and some of the scattered houses of that village. A grove of elms succeeds, which rises to the west end of the church, and the walk is continued through the principal portico of that beautiful building; it consists of six large Ionic columns, that support a pediment, above which a dome rises in the centre.

"It was erected at the sole expense of the late Earl Harcourt, who himself gave the original design, which received a very slight alteration from Stuart. The inside has been fitted up by the present Earl; the interior form is simple and pleasing; its only ornaments are two tablets with the Harcourt arms<sup>h</sup> in French tapestry; another

<sup>h</sup> These have been removed to the house.



piece of tapestry of large dimensions, representing the chiefs of the twelve tribes of Israel at the Passover; and a picture in the altar-piece (which was also after his design) painted by the Rev. Mr. Mason; the subject, which is the Good Samaritan, is well conceived, and has considerable merit.

“In the church there is a barrel-organ<sup>i</sup>, upon which is set Mr. Mason’s music for the responses to the Commandments, and his Sunday hymns. The adjoining flower-garden was formed by him, and he suggested the alterations on the north terrace. So that in a very small space we have specimens of his genius in music, painting, and poetry; of his taste in improving the beauties of nature; and, what is most soothing to those who loved him, a proof that he applied his talents to the noblest purpose, that of celebrating the praises of Him from whom he received them.

“This building stands on the brow of a hill, which takes a circular sweep to the right; and the grove that has been passed occupies the declivity to the left. In its front the ground falls, with inequality of surface, between trees towards the meadow; large elms, feathering down to the ground, form in the bottom an irregular boundary; and the distance is terminated by the hill, and part of the village of Headington. The path

<sup>i</sup> Gone long ago.

now proceeds through trees, and from it are seen the towers of Oxford, and the village of Radley. A little farther on the right, on a seat placed beneath a very large and spreading elm, is the following inscription by Mr. Whitehead :—

“ ‘ This tree <sup>k</sup> was planted by a female hand,  
In the gay dawn of rustic beauty's glow ;  
And fast beside it did her cottage stand,  
When age had cloath'd the matron's head with  
snow.  
To her, long us'd to Nature's simple ways,  
This single spot was happiness complete ;  
Her tree could shield her from the noontide blaze,  
And from the tempest screen her little seat.  
Here, with her Colin, oft the faithful maid  
Had led the dance, the envious youths among ;  
Here, when his aged bones in earth were laid,  
The patient matron turned her wheel and sung.  
She felt her loss ; yet felt it as she ought,  
Nor dar'd 'gainst Nature's general law exclaim ;  
But check'd her tears, and to her children taught  
That well-known truth, 'their lot would be the  
same.'

<sup>k</sup> This tree is well known to the country people by the name of Bab's tree. It was planted by one Barbara Wyat ; who was so much attached to it, that on the removal of the village of Nuneham Courtenay to where it is now built, she earnestly entreated that she might still remain on her old habitation. Her request was complied with, and her cottage not pulled down till after her death.

Though Thames before her flow'd, his farther shores  
She ne'er explor'd, contented with her own.  
And distant Oxford, though she saw its towers,  
To her ambition was a world unknown.  
Did dreadful tales the clowns from market bear  
Of kings, of tumults, and the courtier train,  
She coldly listen'd with unheeding ear,  
And good Queen Anne, for aught she car'd, might  
reign.  
The sun her day, the seasons mark'd her year,  
She toiled, she slept, from care, from envy free :  
For what had she to hope, or what to fear,  
Bless'd with her cottage, and her fav'rite tree.  
Hear this, ye great, whose proud possessions spread  
O'er earth's rich surface, to no space confin'd ;  
Ye learn'd in arts, in men, in manners read,  
Who boast as wide an empire o'er the mind.  
With reverence visit her august domain ;  
To her unletter'd mem'ry bow the knee ;  
She found that happiness you seek in vain,  
Bless'd with a cottage, and a single tree.'

"The walk now takes a more terrace-like form,  
and ascends into a thick grove, from which there  
is an opening into a sequestered part of the park ;  
it continues round the hill<sup>1</sup>, and returns into the

<sup>1</sup> From the further end of this walk a path diverges leading to the Parsonage, which is situated upon a bold and lofty eminence, commanding a view of Radley over a woody bottom, of the Thames, and of Oxford in the distance ; and these different objects, seen from a hill planted with coppice, are rendered the more striking,

same path ; from a seat towards the middle of which Oxford is seen in a particularly advantageous point of view : at the entrance of what may be called the church-glade, that building produces its best effect ; the convex form of the ground immediately before it, uniting with a concave sweep, gives to the hill a most pleasing outline ; and when all the surrounding features are brought into one view, from a station where every external object is excluded, the whole forms a striking piece of garden scenery.

“The walk now repasses the portico, descends to the house, and is continued round it to the south side of the garden. A broad walk, between a plantation on one side, and tufts of shrubs and detached trees on the other, is continued through a thick wood, planted on the upper part of a lawn that declines toward the meadow ; from hence every distant object is excluded, but it is enlivened in one place by a view into the park.

“A little onward is Lady Harcourt’s oak ; which is rendered striking from the circumstance of its far-extended branches resting upon the ground.

“Farther to the left is a highly-ornamented seat of the Corinthian order, designed by Saun-

from the eye being confined on the left by a steep bank covered with wood, and by another fringed with trees, and equally abrupt, on the right.

ders; beyond it is another oak called Whitehead's, near which is an urn dedicated to his memory, with the following inscription by Mr. Mason upon the pedestal:—

“‘Harcourt and friendship this memorial raise,  
Near to the oak where Whitehead oft reclin'd,  
Where all that Nature robed by Art displays,  
With charms congenial, sooth'd his polish'd mind.  
Let Fashion's votaries, let the 'sons of fire,'  
The genius of that modest bard despise,  
Who bade discretion regulate his lyre,  
Studious to please, but scorning to surprise;  
Enough for him, if those who shar'd his love  
Through life, who virtue more than verse revere,  
Here pensive pause, while circling round the grove,  
And drop the heart-paid tribute of a tear.’

“In a recess in the plantation on the opposite side is a seat<sup>m</sup>, placed there by the advice of Mr. Repton, who first discovered the picturesque view from that point. From the eminence upon which the urn is placed, the eye commands a prospect of Oxford, and of the Thames that flows through the intervening valley below; of Radley with the woods beyond it, and of Abingdon and the Berkshire hills; Farringdon hill, with the clump of trees upon its summit, is distinctly seen at the distance of eighteen miles; to the left the ground falls abruptly into a glen in the park,

<sup>m</sup> This is now replaced by a rustic arbour.

but immediately rises into a brow covered with oaks, which in the distant view of them form a mass ; yet so detached, as on a nearer approach to shew the turf beneath them.

“The walk now returns toward the house through a closer part of the plantation ; on the left there is a narrow opening, that admits a view over the underwood ; and the trees on the fore-ground, apparently uniting with a clump in the garden below, lead the eye to other masses of wood, till it reaches Oxford, which is framed by the trees and shrubs through which it is seen.

“A little farther, the prospect in front is viewed beneath the branches of detached acacias, from a treillage seat covered with roses and honeysuckles ; and the path, after being carried through a very thick and close part of the plantation, unites with the upper walk.

#### “THE FLOWER GARDEN

“Has no visible connection with the pleasure-ground ; the entrance is from the path which ascends towards the church, beneath the pediment of a Doric gate<sup>n</sup>, on which the following sentence from J. J. Rousseau, so beautifully allusive to the world of flowers, is inscribed :—‘ Si l’Auteur de la nature est grand dans les grandes choses, il est très grand dans les petites.’

<sup>n</sup> This is now done away with.

"A gravel walk enclosed with shrubs leads to the right; when a view soon opens on the left to an irregular slope, enriched with tufts of flowers, seen beneath the branches of trees; a wide-spreading elm, whose boughs touch the ground, is a kind of central object. The walk then continues between detached trees, till the eye is confined on either side by a thick shrubbery, that unites to the right with a plantation in the park.

"The path now becomes narrower, and passes through an arched rock covered with ivy, which is designed in imitation of a natural cavern. On one side, on a piece of marble, are these lines from Milton's "Comus:"—

“ ‘ Musing Meditation most affects  
The pensive secrecy of desert cell;  
And Wisdom's self  
Oft seeks to sweet retired Solitude;  
Where with her best nurse, Contemplation,  
She plumes her feathers, and lets grow her wings,  
That in the various bustle of resort  
Were all too ruffled, and sometimes impair'd.’ ”

"The front of the grotto is partially concealed by ivy and other creeping plants; and through an opening before it is caught a glimpse of the garden. On a long slanting stone, which appears to be the smooth part of a crag, is the following

inscription to the memory of Walter Clark, Florist, by Mr. Whitehead :—

*“To the Memory of Walter Clark, Florist; who Died suddenly near this spot, 1784.*

“On him, whose very soul was here,  
Whose duteous, careful, constant toil  
Has varied with the varying year,  
To make the gay profusion smile;  
Whose harmless life in silent flow  
Within these circling shades has past;  
What happier death could Heaven bestow,  
Than in these shades to breathe his last?  
'Twas here he fell: nor far remov'd  
Has earth received him in her breast;  
Still fast beside the scenes he lov'd,  
In holy ground his relics rest.  
Each clambering woodbine, flaunting rose,  
Which round yon bow'r he taught to wave,  
With ev'ry fragrant brier that blows,  
Shall lend a wreath to bind his grave.  
Each village matron, village maid,  
Shall with chaste fingers chaplets tie;  
Due honours to the rural dead,  
And emblems of mortality.  
Each village swain that passes by,  
A sigh shall to his mem'ry give;  
For sure, his death demands a sigh,  
Whose life instructs them how to live.



If spirits walk, as fabling age  
Relates to childhood's wond'ring ear,  
Full oft, does fancy dare presage,  
Shall Walter's faithful shade be here :  
Athwart yon glade, at night's pale noon,  
Full oft shall glide with busy feet,  
And, by the glimmering of the moon,  
Revisit each belov'd retreat.  
Perhaps the tasks on earth he knew,  
Resume,—correct the gadding spray,  
Brush from the plants the sickly dew,  
Or chase the noxious worm away.  
The bursting buds shall gladlier grow,  
No midnight blasts the flowers shall fear,  
And many a fair effect shall show,  
At noon, that Walter has been here.  
Nay, ev'ry morn, in times to come,  
If quainter ringlets curl the shade,  
If richer breezes breathe perfume,  
If softer swell the verdant glade,  
If neatness charm a thousand ways,  
Till nature almost art appear ;  
Tradition's constant, fav'rite theme  
Shall be—poor Walter has been here.'

“From this spot there is another opening into the interior part of the garden.

“The walk then winds to the left, where a rude and romantic elm over-canopies a bench. The temple of Flora is the next object ; it is after a design of a Doric portico at Athens : in the

centre of the back wall is a medallion of Flora from the antique, in white marble, with the following inscription from Ariosto :—

“Vaghi boschetti di soavi Allori,  
Di Palme, e d'amenissime Mortelle,  
Cedris et Aranci, c'havean frutti e fiori,  
Contesti in varie forme e tutte belle,  
Facean riparo a i fervidi calori,  
De' giorni estivi con lor spesse ombrelle :  
E tra quei rami con sicuri voli,  
Cantando se ne giano i Rossignoli.’

“It is placed on a gentle rise, from which there is an inclining glade, terminated by a cinerary urn erected to the memory of M<sup>r</sup>. Mason. The lines are by Elizabeth, Countess Harcourt :—

“The Poet's feeling, and the Painter's eye,  
In this thy lov'd retreat, we pleas'd descry :  
Ah, Mason ! in the scene thy fancy drest,  
Oft shall the sigh of sorrow heave the breast :  
Oft recollection picture to the mind  
The various talents that in thee were join'd ;  
And while thy lofty genius well may claim  
The brightest guerdon from the hand of fame,  
Thy simple manners, that disdain'd all art,  
The genuine piety that warm'd thy heart,  
Thy steady friendship, justly might require  
Numbers like those that once inform'd thy lyre.  
Ah, fruitless wish ! for ever mute that strain,  
And “Numbers worthy thee” we ask in vain.’

“The urn is placed in a kind of recess, overshadowed by the drooping branches of a large spruce-fir. This glade is formed by an irregular line of the beds of flowers and shrubs on either side, with single Swedish junipers, which have the effect of cypresses, projecting before them. From the temple, the path bends to the right between large elms.

“On an ornamental seat is,—

“Fair Quiet, have I found thee here,  
 With Innocence thy sister dear!  
 Mistaken long, I sought thee then,  
 In busy companies of Men.  
 Your sacred Plants, at length I know,  
 Will only in retirement grow;  
 Society is all but rude  
 To this delicious Solitude;  
 Where all the flowers and trees do close  
 To weave the Garland of Repose.’

*And. Marvell.*

“The path, as it descends, takes a bolder sweep; and within a recess in the shrubbery is an urn placed upon an altar, on which is the following inscription by Mr. Whitehead:—

“*‘Sacred to the Memory of Frances Poole,  
 Viscountess Palmerston.*

“‘Here shall our ling’ring footsteps oft be found;  
 This is her shrine, and consecrates the ground.

Here living sweets around her altar rise,  
And breathe perpetual incense to the skies.

Here, too, the thoughtless and the young may tread ;  
Who shun the drearier mansions of the dead,  
May here be taught what worth the world has known :  
Her wit, her sense, her virtues were her own ;  
To her peculiar — and for ever lost  
To those who knew, and therefore lov'd her most.

O ! if kind pity steal on virtue's eye,  
Check not the tear, nor stop the useful sigh ;  
From soft humanity's ingenuous flame  
A wish may rise to emulate her fame ;  
And some faint image of her worth restore,  
When those, who now lament her, are no more.'

"George Simon Harcourt, and the Honourable Elizabeth Vernon, Viscount and Viscountess Nuneham, erected this urn in the year 1771.— William Whitehead, Esquire, Poet Laureate, wrote the verses.

"The Conservatory next appears ; orange-trees of various kinds are planted in the ground ; and during the summer, the front, sides, and roof of the building are removed ; the back wall is covered with a treillage, against which are planted exotic jessamines, &c.

"This garden contains no more than an acre-and-half of ground ; but such is the irregularity of its form and surface, the disposition of its shrubs and flowers, and the conduct of the sur-

rounding path, that it appears very considerably larger than it really is. In description it may appear overcharged with artificial ornaments; but they are so placed as to be seen only in unexpected succession. A flower-garden being professedly a work of art, admits of all the embellishment that art can bestow. But taste alone could not have formed this spot, in which so much of invention and fancy is displayed, that it is apparent the genius of poetry must have assisted in the composition °.

#### POEMS WRITTEN AT NUNEHAM.

“LINES LEFT IN THE FLOWER-GARDEN,

*By the late Dr. Bacon, Author of the ‘Snipe,’ &c.*

“‘Could Milton be restor’d to sight,

He might, at good Lord Nuneham’s cost,

See here, with exquisite delight,

The Paradise his Adam lost.’

“TO WALTER CLARK,

*By the Hon. Horace Walpole, 1773.*

“‘Your pinks and tulips live an hour,

A fortnight bounds your utmost pow’r.

° “Mr. Repton, in his very ingenious and instructive work on ‘the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening,’ observes, that ‘the flower-garden at Nuneham, without being formal, is highly enriched, but not too much crowded with seats, temples, statues, or other ornaments; which being works of art, beautifully harmonize with that profusion of flowers and curious plants, which distinguish the flower-garden from natural landscape, although the walks are not in straight lines.’

Flora, the niggard Goddess, pays  
With short-liv'd joys the toil of days.  
But, Walter Clark, your happy lot  
Is fallen in a fairer spot ;  
A Muse has deign'd to view your bow'r,  
And stamp't immortal every flow'r ;  
Her breath new perfumes can disclose,  
Her touch improve the damask-rose ;  
And ages hence, the buds you raise  
Shall bloom, to Nuneham's <sup>P</sup> living lays.  
The lilies of the field, that shone  
With brighter blaze than Solomon,  
Shall beg to quit their rural stations,  
To mix with Walter Clark's carnations."

Since the foregoing description by Lord Harcourt was written, alterations have naturally taken place. When the additions to the house were made by Archbishop Harcourt, formal terraces were constructed, to afford dryer walks near home ; a rosary was added, an ornamental dairy built, opening into the gardens ; much surplusage of busts and verses was removed ; ornamental houses for the agent, bailiff, masons, carpenters, gardeners, &c., were constructed ; and large quantities of glass were added

<sup>P</sup> Lady Nuneham.

to the kitchen-gardens. Recently a new church has been constructed near to the removed village, for the convenience of the inhabitants.

The parish of Nuneham comprises 1,740 acres; the rateable value is £1,882; the assessed property is £3,408. The population is about 300. The Park itself includes portions of four different parishes<sup>1</sup>.

Next follow extracts from Horace Walpole's letters, alluding to Nuneham.

To the Rev. William Mason:—

*“Strawberry Hill, Aug. 8, 1780.*

“... Pray tell me when you are to be at Nuneham; I should like to meet you there. Lady Jersey says the plan of alteration of the house is laid aside; and all I could understand was, that the approach to the house is to be changed; but she is too fine a Lady to explain how that will produce their being better lodged....”

To the Rev. William Mason:—

*“Nuneham, Oct. 13, 1780.*

“... P.S. This place (Nuneham) is more Elysian than ever; the river (the Thames) full to the

<sup>1</sup> Nuneham, Toot Baldon, Culham, and Burcote.

brim ; and the church, by one touch of Albano's pencil, is become a temple, and a principal feature of one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. . . ."

To the Rev. William Mason :—

*"Berkeley-square, Nov. 1, 1780.*

" . . . . I wish you had told me, if you did not find Nuneham in more beauty than ever. I do not know the Paradise on earth I prefer to it, with its Adam and Eve ; who may comfort themselves with having no children, when they recollect that the first-born committed murder *with the jaw-bone of an ass* ; a deadly weapon I am sure ! . . . ."

To the Rev. William Mason :—

*"Strawberry Hill, Oct. 9, 1781.*

" . . . . I go to Park-place the day after to-morrow ; but think I shall not proceed to Nuneham. I have not heard from Lord Harcourt ; but Mr. Stonehewer called here a few days ago, and says the house is pulled to pieces, and consequently in great disorder ; which I conclude is the reason of my not being summoned. . . ."



To the Rev. William Mason :—

*"Berkeley-square, Feb. 7, 1782.*

". . . . How could you forget to tell me of Mr. Whitehead's verses on Nuneham<sup>a</sup>; I am charmed with them: they are the best he ever wrote, except *Variety*. . . ."

To the Rev. William Mason :—

*"Berkeley-square, Feb. 14, 1782.*

". . . . I want you to send me a correct copy of your replicatory 'Ode to the Duchess of Devonshire.' I have at last, after some years of solicitation, prevailed on Lady Harcourt's modesty to allow me to print a small number of copies of some of her poems. . . ."

To the Rev. William Mason :—

*"Strawberry Hill, Aug. 4, 1782.*

". . . . Nay, I do not perceive that your presence at Nuneham advances any work there. I have neither received Lady Harcourt's MS., nor a design for the Gothic building which my painted glass is to deck. Does your being within the vortex of Oxford benumb all your faculties? . . . ."

<sup>a</sup> "On the late improvement at Nuneham, the seat of the Earl of Harcourt," (Whitehead's Works, iii. 75).

To the Countess of Ossory :—

*“ Strawberry Hill, Aug. 30, 1790.*

“ . . . . Of Nuneham, I doubt you were not half so fond as I am. It is not superb ; but so calm, *riant*, and comfortable, so live-at-able, one wakes in a morning on such a whole picture of beauty. . . . ”

## OUR OLD HOME.

BY NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE, 1864.

“ . . . . By the time these matters had been properly attended to, we had arrived at that part of the Thames which passes by Nuneham Courtney ; a fine estate belonging to the Harcourts, and the present residence of the family. Here we landed ; and climbing a steep slope from the river side, paused a moment or two to look at an architectural object called the Carfax ; the purport of which I do not well understand. Thence we proceeded onward, through the loveliest park and woodland scenery I ever saw, and under as beautiful a declining sunshine as heaven ever shed over earth, to the stately mansion-house.

“ As we here cross a private threshold, it is not allowable to pursue my feeble narrative of this delightful day with the same freedom as heretofore ; so, perhaps, I may as well bring it to

a close. I may mention, however, that I saw the library; a fine, large apartment, hung round with portraits of eminent literary men, principally of the last century, most of whom were familiar guests of the Harcourts.

"The house itself is about eighty years old, and is built in the Classic style; as if the family had been anxious to diverge as far as possible from the Gothic picturesqueness of their old abode at Stanton Harcourt. The grounds were laid out in part by Capability Brown; and seemed to me even more beautiful than those of Blenheim. Mason, the poet, a friend of the house, gave the design of a portion of the garden.

"Of the whole place, I will not be niggardly of my rude Transatlantic praise; but be bold to say that it appeared to me as perfect as anything earthly can be,—utterly and entirely finished; as if the years and generations had done all that the hearts and minds of the successive owners could contrive for a spot they dearly loved.

"Such homes as Nuneham Courtney are among the splendid results of long hereditary possession; and we Republicans, whose households melt away like new-fallen snow in a spring morning, must content ourselves with our many counterbalancing advantages for this one, so apparently desirable to the far-projecting selfishness of our nature, we are certain never to attain. . . ."

In giving a list of the pictures which now hang on the walls at Nuneham, the Catalogue which was drawn out by Horace Walpole and Sir Joshua Reynolds, and printed in 1806 by George Simon, Lord Harcourt, three years before his death, will be taken as a basis.

Many additions, however, have since been made to the collection, and the positions of the pictures have been so much changed, that, as they had neither names nor numbers attached to them, it was often difficult to recognise them in the old Catalogue.

The numbers prefixed to the descriptions in this Catalogue are also affixed to the pictures themselves.

The order which will be observed, will be the order of the rooms in which the pictures hang, rather than the numbers which the pictures themselves bear.

To begin with the ENTRANCE HALL :—

133. "Sir Robert Harcourt, Knight of the Bath 1495, and Banneret 1497; son of Sir John and Anne, daughter of Sir John Norris. He was standard-

bearer to King Henry VII. at the Battle of Bosworth. The picture is taken from his monument at Stanton Harcourt."

134. "Margaret, daughter of Sir John Byron, and widow of Sir William Atherston, wife to Sir Robert Harcourt, Knight of the Garter; as she is represented upon her curious monument at Stanton Harcourt, with the garter, with its motto, above the elbow on the left arm. This is one of the only three known examples of female sepulchral effigies decorated with the insignia of that Order: the others are those of Constance, daughter of John Holland, Duke of Exeter; first married to Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk; and, secondly, to Sir John Grey, Knight of the Garter (temp. Henry V.), on her monument (now much defaced) in the church of St. Catharine near the tower: and of Alice, daughter of Thomas Chaucer, wife of William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, in the church of Ewelme in Oxfordshire. On this garter there is no motto, though the monument is in perfect preservation."

Margaret was grandmother of the above-named Robert.

135. "Sir Robert Harcourt, son of Sir Thomas, and of Joan, daughter of Sir Robert Francis. He was Sheriff of Leicestershire and Warwickshire, 1445; Governour of Vernon, &c., in Normandy, 1446; and elected High Steward of the University of Oxford the same year; Knight of the Garter the third year of Edward IV.; Commissioner, with the Earl of Warwick and others, for the treaty between

England and France, 1467; slain by the Staffords of the Lancastrian party, 1471. The picture is from his monument at Stanton Harcourt."

136. William de Vernon, from a monument in a church in Normandy. It was copied by Thane at a cost of 15*l.* 15*s.*
137. "William de Harcourt, son of Robert, and Isabel, daughter and heir of Richard de Camville. Queen Adeliza, daughter of Godfrey, first Duke of Brabant, and second wife of Henry I., granted the manor of Stanton to her kinswoman, Milicent, wife of Richard de Camville; on the marriage of their daughter Isabel to Robert de Harcourt, it assumed the name of Stanton Harcourt, and has continued 700 years in the Harcourt family in direct descent. William de Harcourt adhered to King John in the Barons' wars; was at the siege of Damietta in the Holy Land, An. 1216; and Governor of Tamworth Castle, 1219. He married, by the King's appointment, Alice, daughter and co-heir of Thomas Noel, of Ellenhall, in the county of Stafford. The picture is from his monument in the cathedral of Worcester."
138. "Maud, daughter of John, Lord Grey of Rotherfield, by his second wife, Avice, daughter and co-heir of John, Lord Marmion, (which Maud, with her two brothers, assumed the name and arms of their mother,) wife of Sir Thomas Harcourt, son of Sir Richard and Johanna, daughter of Richard, Lord Grey of Codnor. Died the seventeenth year of Richard II. The picture is from her monument at Stanton Harcourt."

139. "A Head of one of the Harcourt family. A present from Mr. Harcourt Powell to George Simon, Earl Harcourt."  
 140. "A Head of one of the Harcourt family in the reign of Charles I."

## PRINCIPAL STAIRCASE.

104. Noah and his family, with all the different animals preparing to enter the ark. It is said to be by "Imperiali" in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue. Whether it should not have appeared as having belonged to the "Imperiali" family is a question: I cannot discover such a painter as Imperiali. The picture was purchased by Simon, Earl Harcourt, in the year 1740.<sup>x</sup> He paid 28l. 7s. for it to Mr. Langford.

*No number.* A Cattle-piece, said to be by Dirk Vanden Bergen. 15 x 12 in. Sale 11 June 1948 (94)

- Ph. 116. George Bussy, Lord Villiers, afterwards fourth Earl of Jersey, by Brompton. This picture was a present from himself. *Dated 1765 on back.*

40. Sarah Jennings, first Duchess of Marlborough, after Kneller. This picture was given by the Duchess to the first Lord Harcourt. 41 x 31 in.

29. Ferdinand, Infant of Spain, and Cardinal, Governor of the Netherlands, by Hunneman; from the collection of Viscountess Galway. The Infant, Don Ferdinand, received from the Pope a Cardinal's hat at the age of ten, and was raised by proxy to the See of Toledo—the Primacy of Spain, and one of the richest benefices in Europe. He was the third son of Philip III. The painter, Adrian

*Oval 37 x 32  
Sale 11 June 1948 (109)*

*Oval 24 x 22. Dated  
11 June 1948 (95)*

*Sale 11 June 1948 (36)*

*43 x 33  
Sale 11 June 1948 (109)*

*2000 Harcourt  
3 Nov. 1757  
(62)*



Hunneman, was a native of the Hague: he passed sixteen years in England: he studied the works of Vandyck, and died in the year 1680. This picture is nicely painted, but it has been cleaned to the quick.

70. A Farm-yard, attributed in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue to Murillo; it was bought from the collection of Mr. Bagnol by Lord Harcourt in the year 1740 for 16*l*. 25 x 35 in. ? Orrente

71. A Woman on horseback, attended by several figures and various animals; described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "a well-painted picture by Watteau." 28½ x 35 in.

### THE ANTE-ROOM.

32. Queen Henrietta Maria, attributed in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue to Vandyck. The original is well known; this is, however, a carefully-studied and well-painted picture, whoever it may be painted by.

38. Louis XIV., King of France, by Peter Mignard; a good picture, said to be one of the ten which he painted for his Patron, Louis IV. Mignard was born at Troyes, 1610: he studied at Rome, and obtained the name of the Roman: he died 1695, aged 85.

37. The Nativity, by Bronzino; this picture is dated 1547. Bronzino was born in Florence, 1511. The picture was somewhat marred by its "restoration" by Thane in 1836, who charged 41*l*. for the operation.

Sale 11 June 1945 (147)

? Caravaggio  
Sale 11 June 1945 (196)

50 x 40  
Sale 11 June 1945 (165)

40 x 40  
Sale 11 June 1945 (195)



41. This picture is thus described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue :—"The Holy Family, a celebrated picture of Barocci, known by the name of La Madonna colla Gatta, from the cat in one corner; it has been etched by himself, and was in the collection of the Earl of Pomfret." This picture was bought by Simon, Earl Harcourt, in the year 1740, for 24*l.* 3*s.*; it was mercilessly cleaned and repaired by Thane in the year 1836. He charged 15*l.* 15*s.* for the operation; which, in his bill, he describes as a singular success. Barocci was born at Urbino, 1528; and died 1612, aged 84.

Ph. 39. A Holy Family, by Le Sueur, described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "in his best manner, and extremely fine." Eustachius le Sueur was born at Paris, 1617; and died 1655, aged 36. *Circl. 35 in*

Vn. 42. Aubrey Vere, twentieth, and last Earl of Oxford, of that house. This picture is by Walker, and is a fine example of the master. Robert Walker died in the year 1658: he was much patronized by Cromwell.

43. Christ driving the money-changers out of the Temple, by Bassano, painted on black marble. Rebecca, Countess Harcourt, in writing to her son, (vid. letters,) Sept. 23, 1755, says of this picture,— "I think I mentioned a Bassano that we had bought for six guineas of Deard; luckily he knows nothing of a picture; if he had, we must have paid a large sum for it. 'Tis painted on marble; the subject,—Christ driving away the people out of the Temple; very finely painted, as Mr. Fanquier

39 x 31 in.  
Copy of NG. one.  
Sale 11 June 1948 (91)

Sale 11 June 1948 (181)

42 x 29 in.  
Sale 11 June 1948 (192)

says, upon whose recommendation we bought it, neither of us having seen it; but the price was so low, there was no withstanding the purchasing of it." It came from the collection of Dr. Peters. Jacopo da Ponte, called Bassano, was born 1510; and died 1592, aged 82.

- Ph 44. The meeting of Ulysses and Nausicaa; noted in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "capital;" painted by Salvator Rosa. A present from the Duc de Harcourt to Lord Harcourt, in acknowledgement of the kindness shewn to him when he was a refugee in England, at the time of the French revolution. He received an asylum and a pension from Lord Harcourt, until he was enabled to return to France. Salvator Rosa was born at Naples, 1614; and died in 1673, aged 59.
45. A Landscape with a decayed cottage, by Decker; noted in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue, "one of the best of that Master." 28 x 41 in.
- Ph 46. Baron Rhynwick, by Pourbus; a well-painted picture. Pourbus was born in 1570; and died 1622, aged 52. Wood: 42 x 30 1/2. Framed by J. Bylandt.
47. Ruins and figures, by Paul Bril. P. Bril was born at Antwerp, 1554; and died 1626, aged 72.
31. Another similar subject, by the same artist.
30. Dogs and Game; noted in Lord Harcourt's book as "a capital Snyder." This picture was bought by Simon, Earl Harcourt, from Mr. Lamb, in 1757, for 55*l.* 13*s.* Snyder was born at Antwerp, 1579; and died 1657, aged 78. 47 x 67 in.
- Ph 59. George Simon Harcourt, Viscount Nuneham, at

52 x 51  
Copy  
Sale 11 June 1948  
(177)

Sale 11 June 1948  
(103)

Sale 11 June 1948  
(96)

Sale 11 June 1948  
(179)

the age of 17, by Reynolds; in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue the description runs thus,—“the transparent colouring of this head can scarcely be surpassed.” It was painted in 1755, at a cost of 12*l.* 10*s.*

1972 at  
Stanley  
Harcourt

63. Simon, Earl Harcourt, by Reynolds. A note appears in Lord Harcourt's account, “Paid Mr. Reynolds, the painter, for picture of myself and the boy, 26*l.* 5*s.*”

1972 at  
Stanley  
Harcourt

36. “Lettice, daughter and co-heir of Henry, son of Sir Francis Knollys, K.G., wife to William, fourth Lord Paget, by Mark Gerards.” This painter was born at Bruges, 1561; and in 1580 came over to England, where he was appointed painter to Queen Elizabeth; he died 1635, aged 74.  $\pm 50' \times 40'$

1972 at  
Stanley  
Harcourt  
P.C. 1972/1040

320. Musical memories, by Miss A. E. Donkin; bought in 1874 by E. W. Harcourt in the Royal Academy for 75 guineas.

327. E. W. Harcourt, by W. B. Richmond; painted in 1875, cost 150*l.*

328. Lady Susan Harcourt, by W. B. Richmond; painted in 1876, price 150*l.*

329. Medora, by Miss F. Tiddeman, painted in 1876; bought by E. W. Harcourt in the Royal Academy, price 40*l.*

333. Aubrey Harcourt, by Miss Taylor; painted in 1878, price 21*l.*

334. Florie, by Arthur Hacker, painted in 1879; bought by E. W. Harcourt in the Royal Academy, price 25*l.*

48. “Maurice, Prince of Orange, by Mirevelt.” Maurice

23½ x 18½ in.  
Sale of 1948  
(142)

was Governor of the Netherlands, and son of William, the protector of Belgic liberty; he was born 1567, and died unmarried in 1625, at the age of 58. Michael Jansen Mirevelt was born at Delft in 1568; and died in 1641, aged 73. This is an admirably-painted picture, said by some to have been painted by Velasquez.

A bust of Edith Harcourt, daughter of E. W. Harcourt and Lady Susan Harcourt, married to the Hon. Murray Finch Hatton; by Noble, in 1873; one of the last and best works of that master; the price was 150*l*. Noble was an artist of the greatest refinement, and of a very sensitive nature; he died in 1877.

#### LARGE DRAWING-ROOM.

- 1972 in  
Stratton  
Harcourt
- M 1. "George Simon, second Earl Harcourt; his wife, Elizabeth, second daughter of George Venables Vernon, first Lord Vernon, in coronation robes; and the Hon. William Harcourt, afterwards third Earl Harcourt, in the uniform of Aide-de-camp to the King; by Sir Joshua Reynolds; richly and harmoniously coloured. This picture is generally considered one of the most perfect of its kind." There are six oil-paintings by Sir Joshua Reynolds at Nuneham; some of them have been irretrievably damaged under the hands of those who have undertaken to *reline* them, owing to their ignorance of an artifice which Sir Joshua latterly employed. The writings of Caylus on the use of wax in painting, by the painters of antiquity, led Reynolds to

introduce this medium into his own practice. Now, on relining a picture, *heat*, it seems, as well as pressure is needed; so that, whilst undergoing this process, the surface of one of the greatest of Reynolds' works was left behind in the mould. In the case of the present picture, George Granville Harcourt, the then possessor of Nuneham, in the year 1859, at the instigation of Anthony, the picture-cleaner, allowed the rich crimson background of the picture to be removed; beneath this was found a green surface, which now forms the background of the picture. The operation was a bold one, and a very doubtful improvement.

- o. The picture without a label was purchased in Rome by George Granville Harcourt in the year 1848; the subject is the Flight into Egypt; it is the work of a copyist, and is without merit; it was bought simply to occupy the space formerly filled by a picture of Susanna and the elders, which was considered an unfit subject for a drawing-room.
2. Beggar-boys, described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as being by Murillo, and having come from Penshurst. No doubt the latter part of the story is true: the picture is not a good one. 65 x 47 in.
3. Described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "a Landscape, by Gaspar Poussin, in his first manner. Figures by Nicholas Poussin." Duguet was born in France, 1600; he died 1663, aged 63: he assumed the surname of his brother-in-law, Poussin, and is best known by the name of Gaspar Poussin. 29 x 39 in.

Copy of Monna Lisa  
 Taken in Naples  
 Gallery (Photo  
 Bro. 6583).  
 68 x 48 in  
 Sale 11 June 1948  
 (193)

Sale 11 June 1948  
 (193)

Sale 11 June 1948  
 (193)

- 1972 no  
Stanley  
Harcourt
4. Described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "a Landscape, with a cart overturning by moonlight, a capital picture, by Rubens; well-known by Bolswaert's print called 'La charette embourbée,' from the collection of the Comte de Guiche at Paris." Lord Harcourt, in writing to his wife, says,— "Amongst various distant visits I have called on Sir Joshua, and seen the Rubens; which he talks over, and looks at with delight; it has been cleaned, and once varnished, in his house, and under his eye; and he has kindly offered to repair it after the next coat of varnish is laid on, which is necessary to prevent the further peeling off: it is much brighter than it was before, and has lost all that harshness which threatened further decay, which Sir Joshua thinks it will not be liable to; but to be sure it has peeled very much, and none but Sir Joshua himself could be trusted to mend the defects, though they are not in any way the material parts of the picture."

Rubens was born at Cologne, 1577; and died 1640, aged 63. This picture was transferred from panel to canvas by Thane in the year 1835, by whom it was not improved.

- Ph. 5. By G. Poussin, a pair to No. 3, vid. note on that picture. 26 x 39 in.
- Ph. 6. A Landscape, with large figures, dogs, and game; attributed to Gio. Francesco Grimaldi, called Il Bolognese, a disciple of A. Cracci. He died 1680, aged 74. 103 x 75 in.
7. A Landscape, described in Lord Harcourt's Cata-

Sale 11 June 1948  
(113)

Sale 11 June 1948  
(114)



logue to Claude le Lorrain: Lord Harcourt gave 7*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* for it in April, 1754.

8. A Landscape, with figures and cattle, by Nicholas Berchem. Berchem was born at Haerlem, 1624; and died 1683, aged 59. This is a nice picture, in good order: it was a present to Lord Harcourt, from Sir John Blaquiere, K.B. 17 x 22 in.
9. Described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "a fine Landscape, by Nicolas Poussin:" it was bought for Lord Harcourt, March 15, 1756, by Mr. Fanquier, from the collection of Mr. Houlditch, for 52*l.* 10*s.* It has been engraved by Vivares.
10. St. Margaret. This is described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "a most capital picture, by Titian, of St. Margaret. It was in the collection of King Charles I., and has been etched by Howard, the painter." 87 x 66 in.

The original manuscript account of Charles I.'s pictures, includes one of St. Margaret, by Titian; the measurements of the picture are variously given on the same page, as 6 ft. 2 in., and 6 ft.; the figure is described as holding a little red cross in her left hand; upon the right light, upon cloth; Van der Doort always reverses right and left; and what he calls right, we should call left. In the Nuneham picture, the light comes in from the left, according to our ideas. A clear 11 in. has been added to this picture at the top; without which it would accord with the required measurement. The piece added at the top is wretched in execution and colour; some ugly blue has been daubed over the

Sale 11 June 1745 (1751)  
De Young Men.  
Jan. 1745

1972 ab  
Standa  
Harcourt -  
? Gaspar.

Acqy of Prado  
(1745)  
Sale 11 June 1745  
(1751)

old greenish blue, to hide the line of the addition; the arm and knee have been roughly and thickly coloured over the old paint; and the green of the drapery has been restored to a tint far different from any Titian ever employed. The cross is brown; but there is a red reflection in the left hand, which might have proceeded from a red cross. It was said to have been bought at the Hague; but it has been so embellished by picture-cleaners, that the present picture gives very little idea of the original. The last operation performed upon it was by Thane in 1837, for which he charged 31*l.* 10*s.*; whether Titian ever had a hand in it, whether Paris Bordone was its author, or whether it came from Charles I.'s collection, must be left open questions.

11. Moonlight on the water, by Aart van der Neer. This picture was bought by Lord Harcourt, March 23, 1758, for 34*l.* 13*s.* It is a very excellent picture. This painter was born 1627; and died 1690, aged 63.
12. A Landscape, by Jacob van Ruysdael; very good example of the master. This picture was bought by Lord Harcourt, April 16, 1756, for 10*l.* 10*s.* Ruysdael was born at Haerlem, 1636; and died 1681, aged 45.
13. This picture is described as "a Landscape by Rubens, figures and cattle by Teniers; an engraving from it has been done by Van Uden." Rubens was born at Cologne in 1577; Teniers studied under him; and Van Uden was often em-

26 x 21 cm  
 Date of frame 1946  
 (1787)

From Xis  
 29.6.1872(39) illus  
 bt. Holsten



ployed by him to paint his backgrounds for him ; Rubens died in 1640, aged 63.

- Ph. 14. Described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "Mars, Venus, and Cupids ; a very capital picture by N. Poussin, from the collection of Mr. Furnesse." This picture was bought by Lord Harcourt, Feb. 4, 1758<sup>#</sup>, for 105*l*. N. Poussin was born at Audel in Normandy, 1594 ; and died 1665, aged 71.

- Ph. 15. Described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "Moses sweetening the waters of Meriba, by N. Poussin ; and more highly coloured than those of that master generally are."

Rebecca, Countess Harcourt, writing to her son, Sept. 1755, says,—“I must tell you we lately bought one of N. Poussin's pictures (Moses sweetening the waters of Meribah). 'Tis painted after the manner of Raphael ; and, though a little dark, is esteemed by the best judges to be a capital picture ; for those who are not so, Reinholds<sup>r</sup> says, would not like it. Knapton sold it some years ago for Dr. Hickman to Blackwood for 150 guineas, he sold it to Lord Royden for 250 ; and, after passing through several hands, my Lord was so fortunate as to get it for 50*l*.”

16. A Landscape with figures, by Both ; described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue, and rightly so described, as “one of the best pictures of that master.” J. Both was born at Utrecht, 1610 ; and died 1650, aged 40.

- Ph. 17. Maria, second daughter of Sir Edward Walpole, K. B.,

<sup>r</sup> Reynolds.

60 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 83 $\frac{3}{4}$  in.  
R.A. 1936 (220).  
Bought privately by  
Lord Harcourt, 1742.

# at Harcourt's  
Sale, (Lot 56)

61 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 85 in.  
Sale 11 June 1946 (104)

Bought by  
Allen

Countess Dowager of Waldegrave, and Duchess of Gloucester, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The curious remark about the picture in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue (considering by whom that Catalogue was drawn up) was this: "It is worthy of Guido, and the subject such as Guido would have chosen." We may be disposed to substitute the name of Reynolds for Guido; either painter might be proud of having painted the picture. It has unfortunately suffered much at the hands of picture-cleaners; but if placed in a suitable light, the picture exhibits all the powers of the master at his best period. About the year 1730, Edward Walpole, son of the minister, took under his protection a very beautiful young woman, who lived as a dressmaker above his lodgings in London. His father prevented the marriage with her which his son desired. Miss Clements was daughter of the postmaster at Darlington; she bore three daughters to E. Walpole, and herself died at the birth of the youngest. The eldest of these daughters married the Hon. and Rev. F. Keppel; the second daughter, Maria, married Lord Waldegrave, who was considerably her senior in age. There were three daughters, the issue of this union; Elizabeth Maria, who married her cousin, the fourth Earl of Waldegrave; Charlotte Maria, who married George, Duke of Grafton; and Anne Horatia, who married Lord Hugh Seymour. Lord Waldegrave died in 1763, of small-pox. His widow received several offers of marriage after his death; amongst others from the Duke of Portland. She

Oral. 34 & 211  
Sale 11 June 1928  
(163)

eventually married Henry, Duke of Gloucester; the marriage was not made public for six years after it was solemnized. William, Duke of Gloucester, and the Princess Sophia of Gloucester, were the children of this marriage. William, Duke of Gloucester, married his cousin, the Princess Mary, daughter of George III. In the succeeding volumes, letters will appear from Maria, Duchess of Gloucester, which will illustrate some of these events.

18. "The embarkation of King Charles II. at Scheveling, An. 1660, with English and Dutch yachts:" it is described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "a capital Vander-Veldt," and it merits the description. William Vander Velde was born at Leyden, 1610; and died 1693, aged 83.

At the end of the room are two busts: the one, of the Hon. Ed. Harcourt, Archbishop of York, by Noble,—the first commission given to that artist; the second, of the Rev. W. Harcourt, son of Archbishop Harcourt, by Noble, after Chantrey. 80*l.* was paid to Noble for the copy in 1872; Chantrey was paid 300 guineas for the original in 1836, which is now in the Yorkshire Museum in York.

In a small table-cabinet in the Drawing-room are several articles of curiosity; such as an exquisitely-finished and very small watch belonging to the Queen of Bohemia, daughter of James I., and given by her to Frederick Harcourt, brother of Sir Simon Harcourt. A watch, cased in blue enamel, and set with diamonds, given by George III.

to Elizabeth, Countess Harcourt. A small edition of Tasso, carried by J. J. Rousseau in his pocket, and at his death given to Lord Harcourt by his widow; the pocket-book which belonged to Rousseau, given in the same way. A portion of the oak in which Charles II. concealed himself, from Sir Hans Sloane's collection. A purse which belonged to Charles I. A piece of the oak from which tradition says that the arrow glanced which slew William Rufus. A miniature of Queen Charlotte; a miniature of Simon Harcourt, Lord Chancellor; two miniatures of Elizabeth, Countess Harcourt; a miniature of Louis XIV. of France. A small case which formerly contained a portion of the heart of Louis XIV., obtained at Val de Grace, when the spoliation took place during the French Revolution. The case still remains; but the contents came to an extraordinary ending in the year 1848. Queen Charlotte's snuff-box, light-blue enamel, set with pearls, and still containing some of the Spanish high-dried. A snuff-box, the present of the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth to Lady Harcourt. A snuff-box, the present of the King to Lord Harcourt. A piece of glass from Stanton Harcourt, upon which Pope scratched an inscription when he finished translating one of the books of the Iliad. A snuff-box, with a miniature of Queen Victoria set in diamonds, presented by Her Majesty to Colonel F. Harcourt; together with many other things.

## OCTAGON DRAWING-ROOM.

19. George Granville Leveson Gower, first Duke of Sutherland; a present from himself to his brother-in-law, Archbishop Harcourt. 28 x 24 in.
21. Lady Elizabeth Harcourt, daughter of the Earl of Lucan, and first wife of George Granville Harcourt, eldest son of Archbishop Harcourt, by Sir Thomas Lawrence; a good example of the painter.
22. Mary, eldest daughter of William Danby, D.D., and widow of Thomas Lockhart, Esq., of Craighouse, Scotland; married, Sept. 21, 1778, Colonel the Hon. W. Harcourt, only brother of Lord Harcourt. Horace Walpole writes thus of this marriage:—"I must not omit my compliments on Colonel Harcourt's marriage; and yec it is not with perfect cordiality. It is not thence I wish for a Lord Nuneham; pray forgive me in friendship. I am a Tory, and love the right line; though I desire the house of Harcourt may reach to the end of the world, as it has reached from the beginning." The picture is painted by Opie, and is the best that can be seen by that master.
20. Ruins at Rome, by Panini. Painted for Simon, first Earl Harcourt, in Feb. 1754; he paid 21*l*. for it. Paolo Panini was born at Placentia, 1691; and died 1758, aged 67.
23. A pair to No. 20, with the same history attached to it.
24. Granville Leveson Gower, first Marquis of Stafford; a present from him to his son-in-law, Archbishop Harcourt. 29 x 24

Sale 11 June 1928  
(165)

Xero 19 July 1974 (184)  
-class

do (185) 1/1/1975

Sale 11 June 1928  
(85)

25. "A Landscape, with figures and cattle, by Cuyp ; from the collection of Lord Kingsland, at Dublin."  
Cuyp or Kuyp was born at Dort, 1606.

See 11 p. 948  
(151)

26. Described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "a Landscape with Ruins, by Patel ; from the collection of Mons. de la Live, at Paris, which was composed of the choicest specimens I could procure of the several masters of the French school." This picture, a pleasing one, is very justly and delicately painted. 23 1/2 x 30 1/2 in.

1972 at  
Stanford  
Harcourt

- Fig. 27. Mr. Pope, by Kneller ; described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "the best portrait of him, and one of the best works of that master." At the back of the picture was transcribed (until the picture was relined by Rutley) the following letter to Simon, Lord Harcourt :—

"August 22, 1723.

"MY LORD,—It is a satisfaction to me to tell your Lordship that I shall not be any way disappointed of the honour you intend me, of filling a place in your library with my picture. I came to Town yesterday, and got admission to Sir Godfrey Kneller, who assured me the original was done for your Lordship ; and that you, and no man but you, should have it. I saw the picture there afterwards ; and was told by his man that you had sent and put a seal upon it. Give me leave, my Lord, with great sincerity to thank you for so obliging a thought, as thus to make me a sharer in the memory, as I was in the love of a person, who was justly the dearest object to you in the world : and

thus to be authorized by you to be called his friend, after both of us shall be dust. I am ever, with all good wishes to your Lordship and your family, (in which, too, I must do my mother the justice to join her,)

"My Lord,

"Your most obliged and most faithful servant,

"A. POPE."

Lord Harcourt, writing to Lady Harcourt, Dec. 1792, says,—“Pray order Jacob to see that Mr. Pope's portrait be *carefully* placed in a packing-case, and brought to London with the waggon; for Lord Onslow wants a copy of it, and has a right<sup>s</sup> to have one.”

28. Described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as “a Portrait by Velasquez; fine, and very rare.”

Don Diego Velasquez De Silva, was born at Seville, 1594; and died 1660, aged 66. *26. v*

*29 1/2 x 27.  
W. A. Harcourt.  
Ind. 1/100. 1792-1793*

*at Stanle-  
Harcourt*

#### DINING-ROOM.

52. Frances, daughter of Geoffrey Vere, fourth son of John, Earl of Oxford, and sister to Sir Francis, and Horace Lord Vere of Tilbury; wife of Sir Robert Harcourt. Mother of Simon Harcourt, who was killed in the civil wars, and who was grandfather of Lord Chancellor Harcourt. A full length elaborate picture, painted in the time of James I.

*1792 at  
Stanle  
Harcourt.*

*McC 189  
179/1039*

53. “Battle of the Boyne by John Wycke,” commonly

\* This was because he allowed Lord Harcourt to have a copy of his picture of Milton, which copy, now that the original is lost, has become a picture of much value.



called the younger. This picture was bought by Simon, Lord Harcourt, for nine guineas.

John Wycke was born at Haerlem, and died 1702.

54. Sir Robert, eldest son of Sir Walter Harcourt; the following description is given in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue,—he was “the principal adventurer with Sir Walter Raleigh, in his voyage to Guiana, for which expedition he built and fitted out at his own expense three vessels, by which means (in addition to his costly buildings at Ellen Hall, county of Stafford) he dissipated a large fortune, and was reduced to sell that ancient possession, as well as that of Wytham in Berkshire, now the Earl of Abingdon's; both of which had remained in the family from the reign of King John.”

This picture forms a pendant to that of his wife, before described.

49. “View of part of the Quay and Bay of Naples, by Gasparo Occhiali.” This picture shews the top of the Grotto of Pausilippo over the houses. It is signed Caes Van Witt, 1710. The family name of the painter was Witel; he died in 1736.
51. View of part of Rome and the Tiber, by the same artist. 13x16
55. Infant Samuel; a copy of the picture at Knole, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. 35x37
56. A Boy; a copy of a picture at Cobham, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. 35x37
57. Lady Anne Harcourt, daughter of the first Marquis of Stafford, and sister of the first Duke of

13 x 9 2 in.  
Sale 11 June 1948  
(198)

Sale 11 June 1948  
(191)

Sale 11 June 1948  
(188)

Sale 11 June 1948  
(188)



Sutherland, wife of Archbishop Harcourt; by Jackson; a very excellent picture.

58. "A Boy with a vase with flowers, an asp hanging to his finger, by Murillo;" described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "a present from Dr. Jones, Bishop of Kildare, from the collection of Sir Paul Methuen."

Early copy of a  
Landscape.  
26 x 23 in  
Sale 11 June 1948  
1971

60. "A Landscape with a waterfall, by Ruysdael; the figures by Wouvermans." Rebecca, Lady Harcourt, writing to her son, Sept. 1755, says,—“We have lately purchased a Landscape by Ruysdaal; the water prodigiously finely painted; the landscape, figures, &c., extremely well done; and what is very fortunate, with turning in a part that was damaged, it exactly fits the frame over the dining-parlour chimney.” Lord Harcourt paid 14*l.* 14*s.* for the picture in 1755; and in 1835, Thane was paid 15*l.* 15*s.* for repairing the part of the picture which Lady Harcourt alludes to as having been turned in, and for supplying a new frame. Philip Wouvermans was born at Haerlem, 1620; and died 1668, aged 48.

61. The Hon. Edward Harcourt, Archbishop of York; third son of George, Lord Vernon, and of Martha Harcourt his wife. Succeeded to the Harcourt estates 1830, on the death of his cousin William, last Earl Harcourt, without issue. The picture is painted by Hayter; it is a hard painting.

62. Philip Duc de Vendome, Grand Prieur of France, 1710, by Mignard. In Lord Harcourt's Catalogue we read,—“This fine portrait was a present from

26 x 22  
Sale 11 June 1948 (123)  
Wofen Fell  
F. Voel-

the Hon. Horace Walpole." Horace Walpole's letter to Lord Harcourt, when he sent him the picture, was as follows :—

"MY DEAR LORD,—I am delighted to find that Philip de Vendome was the famous Grand Prieur, who had so much wit and spirit, as the inclosed note from Anderson proves. How lucky that a Prince who had so interesting a countenance when a boy should have had common sense afterwards. I cannot say his beauty remained. Lord Dacre has a whole-length of him, later in life, in a habit-de-chasse. It looks like one of those drunken, red-faced old women who follow a camp, and half of whose clothes are scoured regimentals. . . .

"I have such numberless obligations to your Lordship, and so little power of returning them, that you must allow me to take the first of shewing that, at least, I wish to prove my gratitude; and you will, I am sure, not refuse the testimonial, as you know it is of no other worth. You liked the picture I take the liberty of sending; yet it is so indifferent, that I would not presume to offer it if I did not like it too, which proves I have more pleasure in pleasing your Lordship than myself; and that I hope will give it a little value, though it has none else."

- Ph 64. "King William III., and several attendants, hunting; by Wotton." Wotton was a disciple of Wyck, and died 1764.

50 x 60  
Sale 11 June 1948  
(197)

65. Georgiana Poyntz, Countess Spencer; from a picture by Gainsborough, at Althorp. 29 x 24

Whitehead, writing to Lord Nuneham, from Middleton, under date, Dec. 6, 1758, says,—“We have a painter here, who takes the most exact likenesses I ever yet saw. His painting is coarse and slight; but has ease and spirit. Lord Villiers set to him before he left Bath, and I hope we shall be able to bring his picture to Town with us; it is he himself, and preferable in my opinion to the finest unlike picture in the universe, though it might serve for a sign; he sate only twice. The painter's name is Gainsborough.”

66. Queen Charlotte, copied from Gainsborough's picture at St. James's Palace. A present from King George III. to Lord Harcourt; a large full-length picture.

67. “A very large Landscape with cattle, by Rosa da Tivoli;” the note in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue says, “not in his usual style.” Lord Harcourt bought this picture, March 10, 1758, at Mr. Blackwood's sale, for 22*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* Philip Roos, called Rosa da Tivoli, was born at Frankfort, 1655; and died 1705, aged 50.

68. King George III., a pendant to No. 66, and with the same history.

- Ph 69. “Simon, first Earl Harcourt, in royal robes, as Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland; the head by Hunter of Dublin, the figure by Doughty.”

Sale 11 June 1948  
(119)

29

Sale 11 June 1948  
(119)

Sale 11 June 1948  
(119)

Sale 11 June 1948 (119)

f l.

Picture 74/1041  
30 x 22 in. in hand  
over

## BILLIARD-ROOM.

155. "Louis XIV. on horseback, attended by several of his courtiers; the Prince de Condé is on a dark grey horse, the Viscomte de Turenne on a dun horse, between the Prince and the King; by Van der Meulen;" born at Brussels, 1634; died 1690, aged 56. 36 x 63

The following letter was written by Lady Harcourt to her son, in reference to this picture:—

*"Cavendish-square, Thursday Morn. 1751.*

"DEAR NEWNHAM,— . . . I now must tell you I have examined the picture your Papa has lately bought, and think it a most charming piece; it represents a beautiful landskip, with a large groupe of figures on horseback; of which the three principal ones are the King of France, and two great men of his Court; the others appear to be servants conversing together at a little distance, but so well disposed, that you may plainly distinguish every face; and is upon the whole as agreeable a picture of the kind as I ever saw. . . .

"R. HARCOURT."

156. "Domestic Chapel at Stanton Harcourt; by Rathbone."  
 157. "Porter's Lodge at Stanton Harcourt; by Rathbone."  
 158. "A small and very fine head of Sir William Waller, the Parliamentary General, son of Sir Thomas Waller, Constable of Dover Castle, and of Mar-

Sale 12 June 1948  
(141)

garet, daughter of Sampson Lennard, Lord Dacre ; by Walker. It has been engraved by Milton, for Sir William Waller's Vindication, written by himself, and first published in 1793. At the back of this portrait is affixed a copy of his admirable letter to Sir Ralph (afterwards Lord) Hopton, before the battle of Lansdown :—

“ 1643.

“SIR,— The experience I have had of your worth, and the happinesse I have enjoyed in your friendship, are wounding considerations to me, when I look upon this present distance between us ; certainly, Sir, my affections to you are so unchangeable, that hostilitie itself cannot violate my friendship to your person ; but I must be true to the cause wherein I serve. The old limitation of *usque ad aras* holdeth still ; and where my conscience is interested, all other obligations are swallowed up.

“I should wait upon you according to your desire ; but that I look upon you as engaged to that partie beyond possibilitie of retreat, and consequentlie incapable of being wrought upon by any persuasion ; and I know the conference would never be so close betwixt us, but that it would take wind, and receive a construction to my dishonour. That great God, who is the searcher of all hearts, knows with what a sad fear I go upon this service, and with what a perfect hate I detest a war without an enemy ; but I look upon it as an *opus Domini*, which is enough to silence all passion in me.

“The God of peace send us, in His good time, the blessing of peace ; and in the mean time fit us to receive it. We are both on the stage, and must act those parts that are assigned to us in this Tragedy ; but let us do it in the way of honour, and without personal animositie ; whatsoever the issue of it be, I shall never resign that dear title of

“Your most affectionate friend, and  
faithful servant,

“WILLIAM WALLER.”

Walker died in 1658. One of his portraits of Cromwell is said by Pilkington to have been “accidentally sold for five hundred pounds to the Duke of Tuscany’s resident in London ; but whether he paid that immense sum out of compliment to the pride and power of Oliver, or to the merit of the performance, may easily be conjectured, when it is considered that the transaction happened while the power of the usurper subsisted.”

159. “Flemish Peasants playing at nine-pins ; a present to Lord Harcourt from H.R.H. the Princess Augusta. It is painted by an artist of the school of Teniers.”
160. “A small head of Madame de Maintenon, by Mignard :” this is an interesting and rare picture. Madame de Maintenon’s husband, before she married Louis, was Scarron, the deformed scoffer and wit ; he used to say that his bride had brought him an annual income of four louis, two large and very mischievous eyes, a fine bust, and an exquisite pair of hands.

161. "A Landscape, by Ermels; a present to Lord Harcourt from Sir John Blaquiere." *6x9 in*
162. "Christ and St. John playing with a lamb; painted by an artist of the school of Rubens."
163. "A Marine-piece, by Bonaventure Peters." The painter was born at Antwerp, 1614; died 1652, aged 38.
164. "A Landscape with figures, by G. Morland;" Morland died 1804, aged 40.
165. "Another Marine-piece, by Bonaventure Peters."
- Ph.* 166. A Boy building a house with cards; described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as being painted "by Chardin; from the collection of Mr. Fanquier; it has been engraved."
167. The Duchess de Fontagne, reclining upon a bank; described in Lord Harcourt's Catalogue as "a beautiful portrait by Mignard, very rare." *28x22*

## LIBRARY.

- Ph.* 72. "Rowe, the poet, by Kneller; it belonged to Jacob Tonson, the bookseller." It is a very fine Kneller. *49x40 enlarged copy*
73. "A curious, ancient whole-length picture of St. Catharine, forming part of the folding-door of an altar-piece."
74. Another (with the same description), of St. Gregory.
75. "A Holy Family, by Albano." Francesco Albano was born at Bologna, 1578; died 1660, aged 82.
77. "Christ crowned with thorns, by Allesandro Veronese." Allesandro Turchi, called L'Orbetto and *5x7 3/4*

Sale of  
(186)Sale of  
(186)Sale of  
(185)Rhodes  
Chapel  
Tower, S  
Harcourt  
Chapel  
Tower, SSale of  
(186)



Veronese, was born at Verona, 1600; died 1670, aged 70.

78. "Spring with four Cupids; a beautiful picture, by Filippo Lauri. A present to Lord Harcourt from Mr. Fanquier." This painter was son of Baldassar Lauri of Antwerp, and brother of Francesco Lauri of Rome. He was born 1623; and died 1694, aged 71.

79. "A Holy Family, in the style of the old Italian masters, by Rothenhamer; from the collection of Mr. Fanquier." Lord Harcourt bought this picture April 12, 1758, for 5*l.* 15*s.* John Rothenamer, as the name is sometimes written, was born at Munich, 1564; and died 1640, aged 40.

948 80. "St. Cecilia lying dead, and two boy angels; exquisitely painted by Dominichino." Domenico Zampieri was born at Bologna, 1581; and died 1641, aged 60. Stefano Maderno completed his beautiful statue of St. Cecilia, from which this picture was taken in 1599. Domenichino went to Rome with the Carracci. 5 × 7  $\frac{3}{4}$

81. "The Trinity, painted on gold ground, by Andrea del Sarto; a present to Lord Harcourt, from Mr. Knapton, the painter." Andrea Vannucchi, called Andrea del Sarto, was born at Florence, 1488; died 1530, aged 42. Mr. Knapton, the giver of this picture, was a pupil of Richardson, and succeeded Slaughter, as keeper and surveyor of the King's pictures; he died 1788, aged 80.

82. "A most lively and highly-finished head of Solfonisba Angusciolo, by herself; extremely rare, and



not to be surpassed." Lord Harcourt bought this picture March 17, 1757, for 10*l*. The painter was born at Cremona, 1533; she died 1626, aged 93: she lost her sight through painting. Vandyck used to say of her, he gained more from the conversation of one blind woman on art, than from all his other studies.

83. John Phillips, the poet, by Riley; a good picture. Phillips was a native of Bampton in Oxfordshire; he was the author of the "Splendid Shilling" and other poems. He died young; and Lord Chancellor Harcourt caused a marble tablet, with memorial verses in Latin, to be erected to him in Westminster Abbey. The painter, Riley, was born in London, 1646. After the death of Lely, he was appointed Court Painter, and painted Charles II. and many of his Court; he died 1691, aged 45.

84. Ben Jonson. *29 x 24 - Feb. 1 - June 10 1638 (65)*
85. "Milton, by Vandergucht, from the original in the possession of Lord Onslow; at the back of which is the following inscription:—

"This original picture of Milton I bought in the year 1729 or 30, and paid twenty guineas for it, of Mr. Cumberbatch, a gentleman of very good consideration in Chester, who was a relation and executor of the will of Milton's last wife, who died a little before that time. He told me it hung up in her chamber till her death, and that she used to say her husband gave it her, to shew her what he was in his youth, being drawn when he was about twenty-one years of age.

AR. ONSLOW."

“‘Mr. Hawkin Brown (author of the poem, *De Animi immortalitate*), told me, Oct. 8, 1753, that he knew this Mrs. Milton, visited her often, and well remembered this picture hanging in her chamber, which she said was of her husband.—A. O.’

“Compare this picture with that of Milton in his old age, or the print of him by White.”

Lord Onslow sold the original, from which the picture at Nuneham was copied. It is supposed that Lord Onslow’s picture went abroad, but all attempts to trace it have failed. Lord Onslow was often applied to respecting the fate of his picture, but was unable to supply any information. This copy is, therefore, invested with an additional interest.

In Edwards’s “Anecdotes of Painting,” the following account is given of Vandergucht:—

“Benjamin Vandergucht was the thirty-second child of the old engraver of that name. He painted original portraits, made copies, restored pictures, and was a picture-dealer. He cleaned and repaired Lord Burlington’s pictures at Chiswick; and one night, Sept. 21, 1794, when returning to East Sheen, he was accidentally drowned in crossing the Thames.”

86. “Dryden, by Kneller.” 29x24 sale 11 June 1948 (122)
87. “The Hon. Horace Walpole, by Gogain, after Ramsay.”
88. “Lord Bacon.” 30x25 sale 11 June 1948 (75)
89. “Prior, by Dahl.” 29x24 sale 11 June 1948 (117)
90. “Charles, Lord Halifax, by Vandergucht, after Kneller.” 29x24 sale 11 June 1948 (131)

91. "Gay." 29 x 24 sale "June 1948 (78)  
 92. "Gray, by Vandergucht, after Wilson." 29 x 24 sale "June 1948 (78)  
 93. "Mr. Whitehead, Poet Laureate, by Wilson." This picture seems to have been a long time in the painting. The following extracts of letters from Whitehead to Lord Nuneham mark the progress of it:—

"June 20, 1758.

"I finished sitting at Wilson's before I came out of Town; and the picture seems to me very easy, and amazingly like. He is pleased with it himself, and intends to take great pains in the colouring, &c.; he is quite confident you will like it."

"Nov. 4, 1758.

". . . . I likewise called in upon Wilson; what he has done to the picture I cannot tell, but the likeness is considerably lessened. If I have time, I am to give him a sitting before your Lordship comes to Town."

"June 23, 1759.

". . . . Wilson has made some alterations in my picture, which Mason said were much for the better."

"Sept. 16, 1760.

". . . . I am glad to find travelling agrees with my picture. I always thought all the features like, but the result of the whole not so. Perhaps the light you have placed it in is advantageous to it."

Wilson was a native of Wales; and excelled

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more in landscapes than portraits; he died 1782, aged 68.

"William Whitehead was son of a Cambridge baker: he was educated at the University of his native city, and passed into Lord Grey's family as private tutor. He wrote tragedies of a soporific nature."—"Habits and Men," by Doran, 1854. He was tutor to the fourth Lord Jersey; and on Mason's refusing the appointment, he was created Poet Laureate.

94. "Francis Beaumont." 29 x 24 sale 11 June 1948 (76)

95. "Cowley." 29 x 24 sale 11 June 1948 (77)

Ph 96. "Sir R. Steel." 29 x 24 sale 11 June 1948 (130) as *Christopher*

Ph 97. "Otway." 29 x 24 sale 11 June 1948 (171) as *Riley*

48 (132) 98. "Addison, by Vandergucht, after Kneller." 29 x 24

99. "Dean Swift; from the original in the possession of the Earl of Lanesborough. A present from Mr. Edward Hamilton." 29 x 24 sale 11 June 1948 (84)

1948 Ph 100. "Mason; a present from himself. Painted by Doughty, a disciple of Reynolds." 29 x 24

1948 101. "Spencer;" this picture bears his name, and the date, on the background. It is probably the picture from which Vertue took his engraving, in his Twelve Heads of Poets. 29 x 24

1948 Ph 102. "Pope, by Richardson." This picture was engraved by Vertue, for a large folio edition of Pope's works: Richardson died 1745, aged 80. 29 x 24

## STATE BEDROOM.

217. "Simon, only surviving son of Simon, first Lord Harcourt; painted at Paris, by Le Bel. It belonged to Prior, who bequeathed it to Lord Harley;" who gave it to Lord Harcourt after his son's death.
218. Martha, daughter of Hon. Simon Harcourt, mother of Hon. Edward Harcourt, Archbishop of York, and third wife of George, first Lord Vernon, by Kneller: a good picture.
219. "Simon, first Lord Harcourt, only son of Sir Philip Harcourt, Lord Chancellor of England, by Kneller:" a very good picture. *50 x 40*
220. "Margaret, daughter of Sir William Waller, by his first wife, Jane, daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Reynell, of Ford, in Devonshire." Margaret Waller married Sir William Courtenay, of Powderham Castle, ancestor of Lord Courtenay. *49 x 39  
late 11<sup>th</sup> cen.*
193. Frederick, second son of Sir Simon Harcourt; by Cornelius Jansen. Jansen was born in Amsterdam; he came over to England, and was made Court Painter to James I.; he afterwards returned to his own country, and died 1665.
- Ph* 222. Lady Mary Tufton, daughter of John, second Earl of Thanet; second wife of Sir William Walter, of Sarsden, Bart. Sir William's son, Sir John Walter, left a widow, who married Lord Chancellor Harcourt, as his third wife; and was the Dowager Viscountess Harcourt for many years. This picture is by Sir Peter Lely, and is an excellent picture. Sir Peter Lely, otherwise Peter Vander *49 x 39  
late 11<sup>th</sup> cen.*

Faes, was born at Soest in Westphalia, 1617; and died 1680, aged 63.

223. "Rebecca, daughter and heiress of Charles Samborne le Bass, of Pipewell Abbey in the county of Northampton; by Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Samuel Moyer, Bart., wife to Simon, first Earl Harcourt; by Knapton." 20*l.* was paid for this picture.
224. George Granville Harcourt, eldest son of Archbishop Harcourt; by Hayter.
225. "Elizabeth, daughter of John Evelyn, Esq., of Wooton in Surrey;" wife of the Hon. Simon Harcourt; grandmother of Archbishop Harcourt.
226. Sir Simon Harcourt.
197. Simon, only son of the Hon. Simon Harcourt; by Kneller. The following extract from a letter of Elizabeth Harcourt to her mother, Mrs. Evelyn, gives the date of this picture:—

*"April 1, 1719.*

"... The boy is well; he was last week at Sir Godfrey Kneller's, to sett for his picture; and I think I never saw aney thing liker than it is, tho' he has sat but once." I am indebted for this letter to Mr. William Evelyn, of Wotton.

227. The Hon. Edward Harcourt, Archbishop of York; third son of George, first Lord Vernon, and of the Hon. Martha Harcourt; he took his mother's name on succeeding to the Harcourt estates. The picture is a copy of one at Sudbury, belonging to Lord Vernon; by Sir Thomas Lawrence.

## SMALL LIBRARY.

103. "The Madonna and child ; very beautiful, by Guido. This picture was bought out of the Hotel Hautefort, at Paris." 28 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 35

The following letter, from Benjamin West to Lord Harcourt, describes this picture :—

"*Newman-street, Jan. 8, 1809.*

"MY LORD,—I have examined the picture mentioned in your Lordship's note to me ; and I find it to be a copy from a celebrated picture by Guido, which was at Bolonia in my time ; but where now, I do not know. It is copyed by his favorite schooler, *Simon de Pesara*, and is a good one, and next to having the original.

"I am happy to find that your Lordship is in Town, and in health ; in a few days I will have the honour to pay my respects to you at Harcourt House, Cavendish-square.

"I have the honour to be, with sincere esteem for your Lordship's regard, as well as that I am

"Your greatly obliged,

"BENJ. WEST."

242. "Frances, daughter of Sir Francis Poole, Bart. ; wife of Henry Temple, Viscount Palmerston ; in crayons, by Gardner."
244. "George Venables Vernon, first Lord Vernon ;" in crayons. *in London*
245. "George Simon Harcourt, Viscount Nuneham ; by Gardner, in crayons, 1773."
246. "Martha, daughter of the Hon. Simon Harcourt,

*See in  
(16) -  
in the  
Pope's  
Studio  
1972*

*1972  
Studio*



- sister of Simon, first Earl Harcourt ; wife of G. V. Vernon, first Lord Vernon ; in crayons."
247. "Hon. Catherine V. Vernon, second daughter of George, first Lord Vernon, by Martha, daughter of the Hon. Simon Harcourt ; in crayons."
248. "The Hon. Martha Vernon, elder sister of the above ; in crayons."
249. Portrait unknown ; in crayons.
331. "Princess Augusta ; a present from herself."
250. "Anna Chambers, Countess Temple ; by Hamilton, in crayons, 1771."
252. "Frances Twysden, wife of the fourth Earl of Jersey."

#### STATE DRESSING-ROOM.

168. "Sir Philip Sydney, when a youth ; painted upon silver. A present from H.R.H. the Princess Augusta."

Horace, writing of Sir Philip Sydney, says,—  
 "This person is described by the writers of that age as the most perfect model of an accomplished gentleman that could be found.—Virtuous conduct, polite conversation, heroic labour, and elegant erudition, all concurred to render him the ornament and the delight of the English Court. And as the credit enjoyed with the Queen and the Earl of Leicester was wholly employed in the encouragement of genius and literature, his praises have been transmitted with advantage to posterity. No person was so low as not to become the object of his humanity. The King of Scots, struck with



admiration of Sidney's virtues, celebrated his memory in a copy of Latin verses, which he composed on the death of that young hero in battle, 1586."

*No number.* Copy of a small painting by Morland; by Hinton.

*No number.* Jane, wife of Colonel W. Gooch, on ivory; after a picture by Sir William Beechy.

304. Chapel at Stanton Harcourt, Paul Sandby.

313. Entrance Gate, Stanton Harcourt, Paul Sandby.

314. Private Chapel, Stanton Harcourt, Paul Sandby.

315. Church at Stanton Harcourt, Paul Sandby.

316. Kitchen, Stanton Harcourt, Paul Sandby.

281. Kitchen, Stanton Harcourt, Paul Sandby.

294. Chapel at Stanton Harcourt, Paul Sandby.

295. Kitchens, with remains of Offices at Stanton Harcourt, by Paul Sandby.

*No numbers.* Two other paintings, forming the remainder of the same set.

*No number.* Print of Archbishop Harcourt.

„ Print of Smith, the geologist.

„ Print of Sir Stafford Northcote.

„ Print of the Lock Cottages at Nuneham.

#### STATE PASSAGE.

Ph 198. "Lambert, the Parliamentary General; by Walker."

324. E. W. Harcourt; by Reginald Cholmondeley, 1856.  
A present from the painter.

325. Bishop of Coventry's grant of the Church of Cesterford to Ronton Abbey, 1314; parchment.

*Sales from*

326. Grant of the Manor of Northmoor, by Queen Elizabeth, 1570; parchment.

*No numbers.* A series of Estate Maps, and other framed parchments.

#### LIBRARY CORRIDOR.

169. The Rev. William Mason.

170. "Anne, daughter of Sir William Waller, and of Lady Anne Finch; first wife of Sir Philip Harcourt; by Gogain, after the miniature in the Drawing-room, by Mrs. Beale."

171. "The Lady Anne Finch, daughter of Thomas, first Earl of Winchelsea, and second wife of Sir William Waller; by Vandyk, or old Stone."

172. "Sir Philip, eldest son of Sir Simon Harcourt; by Gogain, after the miniature in the Drawing-room, by Mrs. Beale (temp. Charles II.)."

174. "Anne, daughter of William, fourth Lord Paget; wife to Sir Simon Harcourt; married, secondly, to Sir William Waller; by Mrs. Beale."

Mrs. Beale was born in Suffolk, 1632; and died 1697, aged 65. Sir P. Lely was her instructor.

173. "William, fifth Lord Paget; by Sir Peter Lely." 29 x 24

175. "The Right Hon. Sir Simon Harcourt, eldest son of Robert Harcourt, and Frances de Vere; Governor of Dublin, 1642; killed at the siege of Carrickmain, 1643. A very fine and highly-finished picture, by Mirevelt."

34. "Augustino Barbardico, seventy-fourth Doge of Venice; by Gentile Bellini." This Doge reigned for fifteen years; and died in 1493, when Bellini

was 72 years old. G. Bellini was born at Venice, 1421; and died 1501, aged 80. This picture was very carefully restored by Merritt in 1878, shortly before his death; and under the personal supervision of G. Richmond, R.A.: it is a very fine picture.

243. Maria, Duchess of Gloucester; by Sir Joshua Reynolds. A sketch for a picture. 29 x 21 Copy

Ph. 176. "Portrait of Lady Fanshawe:" a fine picture by C. Janssen, signed, and dated. 1632

Ph. 177. "Portrait of Sir Richard Fanshawe," by Cornelius Janssen: a very fine picture. 1632

178. "Elizabeth, daughter of the Hon. Simon Harcourt, in an Hungarian dress; by Zeeman." A poor picture.

Ph. 179. "William Henry, Duke of Gloucester, in the Garter robes, by Opie; a present from the Duke to Lord Harcourt." 29 x 21

Ph. 212. "Kent, the father of Landscape-gardening; by himself." Not much more than a sketch. 35 1/2 x 25

180. "Shakespeare, in crayons, by Vandergucht; after the original in the late Duke of Chandos's possession, the only authentic one." So says Lord Harcourt's Catalogue. This picture, amongst others, was manipulated by Thane, the picture-cleaner, in 1834; and a new frame was supplied. The picture is hung high, and has a glass over it; all that now remains under the glass, is an inferior coloured print, worth at most a sovereign.

Ph. 181. "Giles Bruges, third Lord Chandos. It came from Weston (Mr. Sheldon's), and was a present from Mr. Walpole." 40 x 26

Ph. 182. "Mr. Evelyn; an old copy from Kneller. A present from Sir Frederick Evelyn, Bart." 33 x 27

Ph. 183. "Mr. Harley (afterwards Earl of Oxford), when Speaker of the House of Commons; after Kneller."

332. Dr. Sacheverell; by Anthony Russel, a pupil of Riley; Russel died 1743. This picture was bought at the sale of the effects of the late Lady Gifford, formerly Hon. Mrs. Norton, *née* Sheridan, in 1877, by Sir W. Harcourt, Solicitor-General, 1875, who presented the picture as an appropriate gift to Nuneham. Sir Simon Harcourt, Solicitor-General, 1702, defended Dr. Sacheverell on his famous political trial.

232. "Philip, Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery; by old Stone, after Vandyk. 29 x 24

Ph. 233. "Lionel Cranfield Sackville, first Duke of Dorset, in his Garter robes, by Reynolds; a present to Lord Harcourt from Lady Cecilia Johnston, *née* West." This picture was painted in 1750, and was almost the first of Reynolds' performances. It may be looked upon as one of the most indifferent of his performances, and gives little indication of the painter's future greatness. 29 x 24

Ph. 185. *Jacob Thomson in Young's* G. Thomson, the poet. 34 1/2 x 26. 2nd 11 June 1948 (88)

186. "King James I.; by Marc Gerard." It has been suggested that this picture may have been painted by Vansomer. Marc Gerard was born at Antwerp, 1576; and after successfully painting in his own country, he came to England, where his works were much prized. 43 1/2 x 32

188. "Richard Weston, Earl of Portland. Lord Trea-

surer in the reign of King Charles I.: an old copy, after Vandyk."  $27\frac{1}{2} \times 23\frac{1}{2}$

189. "Anne of Denmark, Queen of King James I.; by Marc Gerard," or by Vansomer. The portraits of Anne of Denmark may be distinguished from those of Queen Elizabeth, for whom they are sometimes mistaken, by the initials of Anne's father and mother on her ruff, and by the miniature-box on her left side.  $26\frac{1}{2} \times 23\frac{1}{2}$  - copy

Sale 11/12  
(160)

190. "Elizabeth, Electress Palatine, and Queen of Bohemia; by Handthurst. A present from her to Sir Simon Harcourt." Gerard Handthurst, called Dalle Notti, was born at Utrecht; and died 1660, aged 68. He was appointed painter to the Queen of Bohemia.  $29 \times 24$

Sale 11/12  
(118)

#### MIDDLE CORRIDOR.

In this Corridor are cabinets containing a collection of Old China; amongst which is the service of Sevres ware which was used at the great feast given by the King of Spain, to commemorate George III.'s recovery from his first illness; and specially made in Paris for the occasion. A Tea-service of Worcester china; a present from George III. Old China from Stanton Harcourt. A Vase brought from Herculaneum, by George, Lord Harcourt, &c.

191. "A Seaport Town, with ruined Tower; by Tempesta da Genoa."  
195. "Ruins, with a View of Rome in the distance; by Tempesta da Genoa." Simon, Lord Harcourt,

bought these two pictures, March 17, 1757, for 38*l.* 17*s.*

- 948 *Pr.* 213. "Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, afterwards Bishop of Durham, when young; by Sir Peter Lely: one of the best works of that master." So says Lord Harcourt's Catalogue. [It is probably by Riley, and] is a very good picture. 28x24

Granger, in his "Biographical History of England," describes Bishop Crewe as "vain and ambitious, unsteady and insincere; of all Prelates the most compliant with the King's measures, and justly esteemed the grand inquisitor of the ecclesiastical commission." He was for three years Bishop of Oxford; and was translated to Durham, 1674. He held the see of Durham forty-seven years; and died at the age of 88, Sept. 18, 1722.

251. "Five small Miniatures, very curious:—Queen Elizabeth, the only known profile likeness of her; Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester; Lady Dorothy Percy, Countess of Leicester; other two unnamed."
263. "Three small Miniatures:—Lady Mary Sydney, Countess of Pembroke; Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex; third unknown. All these miniatures came from Penshurst."
194. "A very curious ancient picture of the Court of Wards and Liveries, with Portraits of the Officers, Servants, and other people there assembled; the inscription, on a piece of decayed paper at the back of it, is *verbatim*, the same as the latter part of the inscription at the bottom of the print en-

graved by Vertue; and the writer of it (whose signature is 'J. Fish') adds,—'I am told that this picture was engraved by Vertue.' This, however, was a mistake, as the print was taken from a painting in water-colours, in the possession of the Duke of Richmond; from which circumstance it is highly probable that this is the original, as it is usual to copy in water-colours from pictures in oil; but rarely, if ever, are the latter copied from the former." That may hold true as a general rule; but, in this instance, the feebleness of the painting points to its being a copy.

199. A Large Landscape; painter unknown.
200. "Nymph, with Cupids, representing Night; by Valerio Castelli." Bought by Lord Harcourt, March 23, 1758, for 18*l.* 18*s.* Valerio Castelli was born at Genoa, 1625; died 1659, aged 34. 44½ x 56  
Sale 11 (w)
201. "Bacchus and Ariadne; after Guido, by his scholar, Simon de Pesaro: a fine copy." Bought by Lord Harcourt, March 10, 1758, for 6*l.* 6*s.* 36½ x 32½ Sale 11 (w)
50. "The Duke of Schomberg, by Kneller." 24 x 24 Sale 11 (w)
221. "Michael, son of Sir Walter Harcourt; he commanded one of his brother's, Sir Robert Harcourt, ships, on his expedition to Guiana." It has been suggested that this picture was painted by Velasquez, but there is not much foundation for it.
- Ph. 229. "A Head, in chalks, of Sir Joshua Reynolds when a youth (aged 17); by himself. This curious drawing was a present to Lord Harcourt from Sir J. Reynolds' niece, Mary, Marchioness of Thomond." This picture illustrates the portrait of



himself in the National Gallery, for which it was probably a study.

228. "Drawing of a Pedlar-girl, by Queen Charlotte, wife of George III. ; a present from Her Majesty."
308. "A Drawing by George III., when Prince of Wales, 1756."
309. "Drawing by Edward, Duke of York, brother to George III., in 1756."
130. "Print of Henry de Lorraine, Comte de Harcourt ; engraved by Mason, from a portrait by Mignard," 1667. He came to England as Ambassador in 1643, under pretence of mediating between Charles I. and his Parliament. It is doubtful, however, whether his secret instructions from Mazarin were not to set them more completely at variance. He succeeded to the command of the French armies on the death of Condé, and was made a Marshal of France.
265. A Landscape ; painter not known.
323. Lady Anne Harcourt, by Marshall ; vid. No. 57.
283. A Print of Colonel the Hon. W. Harcourt in the act of taking General Lee prisoner. Mr. Scull, in his "Memoirs of the Evelyn Family," gives the following account of the above event :—  

"It is stated that Colonel Harcourt, before he left England, expressed hopes that he should take General Lee. He arrived in New York in the first week in October, 1776, in the 'Lapwing ;' which had several transports under convoy, having on board the 17th Regiment of Light Horse, under his command.



“Col. Harcourt (Dec. 13, 1776) was out on a reconnoitring expedition with about thirty Light Dragoons. . . . He soon observed a man whom he imagined to be a spy; and had him secured. On searching him, a letter was found, the wafer not dry, directed to General Washington from General Lee. The man was forced to conduct them to the place where he had left the writer of the letter. This was three miles distant from the main body of the American army. The house was surrounded; a shot was fired at Col. Harcourt, which grazed his head; and General Lee was taken prisoner by the Dragoons. Only four minutes elapsed from the time of surrounding the house to the carrying off of their prisoner.

“Upon the capture of General Lee’s being known in England, great were the rejoicings; and when Lord Harcourt attended the King’s levee, His Majesty came up to him, and exclaimed, ‘My Lord, your son has behaved with the utmost gallantry; it gives me the greatest pleasure; and, I doubt not, it does the same to you. I shall take care of Col. Harcourt; leave his fortunes to me.’ For the capture of Lee, Col. Harcourt received the thanks of Parliament; in 1783, he was raised to the rank of Lieut.-General; in the following year he commanded the Cavalry; and, finally, the army in Holland; and afterwards he was created a Field-Marshal.”

He succeeded his elder brother in his title and estates in 1809, as last Earl Harcourt; and himself

died in 1830; when he was succeeded by his cousin, Archbishop Harcourt. An offer of a renewal of the peerage was made to Archbishop Harcourt by Lord Grey through Lord Carlisle, when he succeeded to the estate; but was declined by the Archbishop, who felt unable to support the Ministry of the day.

123. Landscape with water, by Van Goyen; a nice picture. The artist was born at Leyden, 1596; and died 1656, aged 60.
319. The Good Samaritan; by Mason. This picture was painted as an altar-piece for Nuneham Church.
330. The Old Servant, by Herring; a picture of an old horse. Bought by E. W. Harcourt, 1872, for 7*l.* 10*s.*
206. "Jacob Hall, the celebrated rope-dancer." 29 x 24 *1/2*
264. "Drawing of a Mountebank, &c., by Paul Sandby;" an early specimen of water-colours.
275. Trionfo di Sileno.
276. Trionfo di Bacco.
336. Study in water-colours, by Frederick Tayler; bought by E. W. Harcourt, 1878, 5*l.*

#### No. 4. SOUTH WING.

202. "Mrs. Witham, [by Cornelius Jansen?]" a good picture on panel. 40 x 31 *1/2*
203. "Mr. Witham, [by Cornelius Jansen?]" a pendant to the last, and equally good. 40 x 31 *1/2*
208. "Sir Samuel Moyer, Bart.; by Riley." 29 *1/2* x 24 *1/2*
210. "Lady Moyer, in the character of St. Catherine; by Mrs. Beale."

- Ph 211. "Mr. Joliffe; by Sir P. Lely." 29 x 24 Sale 11/12  
 236. "Mr. Congreve, when young; from the miniature at Strawberry Hill." Sale 11/12

## No. 5. SOUTH WING.

187. "J. J. Rousseau, by Gogain, after Ramsay; altered from the mask taken after death." Sale 11/12  
 205. "Poultry and Birds, by Cradock:" a good picture.  
 204. "Anne, eldest daughter of Simon, first Viscount Harcourt; wife to John Barlow, Esq., of Silbeck, in Pembrokeshire; by Kneller." Sale 11/12  
 207. Charles Samborne le Bas, of Pipewell Abbey, Northamptonshire; father of Rebecca, Countess Harcourt; by Knapton. 28 1/2 x 24 Sale 11/12  
Ph 184. "Nicholas Fullar, a noted Puritanical Lawyer, who died in prison, 1619; by Marc Gerard." 35 1/2 x 27 1/2 Sale 11/12 (112)  
Ph 33. "Mrs. Siddons, the celebrated Tragedian, in the character of Isabella in the 'Fatal Marriage;' by Hamilton." 29 1/2 x 24 Sale 11/12 (115)

In the bed-rooms in the South Wing there are about thirty good steel engravings on various subjects, but they are not labelled.

## NORTH CORRIDOR.

105. "A very ancient head of King Henry VI.; a present from Mrs. Wetenhall to Lord Harcourt."  
 106. "Ruins at Rome, with figures, antique statues, vases, &c., by Paolo Panini; painted for Simon, Lord Harcourt, in 1742." This picture is a good one; and curious as representing a temple which Xes. 19.

has since been pulled down for the sake of widening a street.

107. "Architecture with figures, by Viviani." Ottavio Viviani was born at Brescia, 1599; and died 1674, aged 75. Lord Harcourt bought this picture, March 31, 1756, for 17*l.* 17*s.*

129. Ruins at Rome, by Panini; a fellow-picture to No. 106.

192. "A celebrated piece of Needlework, by Mary, Queen of Scots; preserved in Windsor Castle, and presented by the King to Lord Harcourt, 1805. The Queen is represented standing under a canopy, with a sword in one hand, and a balance in the other (the attributes of justice), as supplicating the Virgin, who appears in the clouds above, in favour of her infant son. Near her is an allegorical figure of Wisdom, with her proper attribute (the serpent); and below her, King James and another child, who is supposed to be an allegorical representation of Innocence; opposite to the Queen is Fortitude, with her attribute; and in the background, Envy, with her snakes. On a scroll is inscribed,—'Sapientiam amavi, et obsequivi a juventute meæ.' Sap. VIII.

"This curious picture remained in the wardrobe till Queen Anne ordered it to be framed, and hung up in the King's closet, Windsor Castle."—*Extract from a MS. at Windsor.*

*No number.* A curious piece of early Needlework, framed.

321. Lady Susan Harcourt, in crayons; by Fanner, 1874; cost 25*l.*

*See 107  
(187)*

109. "Elizabeth, daughter of George, first Lord Vernon ; and wife of George Simon, second Earl Harcourt ; in crayons, by Miss Read."
110. "Georgina, Countess Spencer, daughter of S. Poyntz, Esq. ; in crayons ;" said to be by Rosalba.
335. Matilda Mary Gooch, wife of the Rev. W. Harcourt, by Fanner ; taken from a photograph ; crayons, 1878, price 40*l*.
- No number.* Three Heads of Charles I., on ivory ; by Maria Jane Gooch.
331. Edith, daughter of E. W. and Lady Susan Harcourt ; married to Hon. Murray Finch Hatton ; crayons, by Fanner, 1876 ; price 25*l*.
112. "Mary, Queen of Scots, and Dowager of France, æt. 25. Born Dec. 14, 1542 ; murdered, Feb. 8, 1587.

' . . . Innocence shall make  
False accusation blush.'

*Shakespeare.*

"From the undoubted original, painted when she was a prisoner in the Castle of Loch Leven, in the possession of the Earl of Morton, in whose family it has remained since that time."

The following letter relates to this picture :—

*"Green-street, Feb. 24, 1797.*

"Mr. Chalmers presents his compliments to Lord Harcourt, and regrets that he should have been at Whitehall when his Lordship called in Green-street.

"Mr. Chalmers begs to inform Lord Harcourt

*Sal 11/10*

that the Mary, Queen of Scots, which he saw, is a copy from an original of Lord Morton's at Dalmahoy, by Martin of Edinburgh. This and many other likenesses of Mary, Queen of Scots, were collected by Mr. Chalmers, to enable him to settle in his own mind what were the real features of that elegant Princess, which is a disputed point to this day. And for that purpose he employed Mr. Paleau, a very ingenious painter of Charlotte-street, Portland-road, to paint the *composition* which Mr. Chalmers has now the honour to communicate to Lord Harcourt from all the specimens, and from the tomb of Mary, in Henry VII.'s chapel, as the best likeness. Lord Harcourt may either return the miniature of Mary by the servant, or keep it for a week, as may be most agreeable to his Lordship."

124. "Silver censer, medal, and pearl necklace, by Roestraten:" a good picture. The painter was born at Haerlem, 1627; and died 1698, aged 71.

*No number.* An ancient piece of glass in a frame; taken from a window at Stanton Harcourt.

115. "A highly finished view on the Rhine, by Vosterman; very rare." Vosterman was born at Bommel, 1643; died 1693, aged 50.

145. "A pretty small Landscape, by Morland; a present from Mr. Cowden."

114. "A setting Sun, with Shepherd and Sheep; by Peter Van Leer, called Bamboccio." Bamboccio was born at Laeren, near Narden, in 1613; died 1673, aged 60. This picture was transferred from

panel to canvas by Thane, 1835; and said by him to be painted by Karel du Jardin.

146. "A beautiful little Landscape with Horses, by Morland; a present from Mr. Cowden."
111. "Elizabeth, daughter of Simon, Earl Harcourt, wife of Sir William Lee, Bart., of Hartwell, Bucks; crayons, by Miss Read."
35. "Richard Grenville (afterwards Earl Temple), by Rosalba; a legacy from Anna Chambers, Countess Temple, his wife, to Lord Harcourt:" a very fine picture. Rosalba Carriera was of Chiozza; she died 1757, aged 82.
113. "Mary le Pel, wife of John, Baron Hervey, of Ickworth, eldest son of John, first Earl of Bristol, of that family; painted at Paris by La Tour." An excellent crayon picture; a present from Horace Walpole.

Pultney wrote,—

"Sure Venus had never seen bedded  
So perfect a Beaux and a Belle,  
As when Hervey the handsome was wedded  
To the beautiful Molly le Pel."

Lord Harcourt wrote a memoir of Lady Hervey, as follows:—

"This celebrated and accomplished lady was a Cornet of horse from the moment of her birth, her father, Brigadier-General Le Pell, having obtained a commission for his child before that child was born; and her name was accordingly enrolled on the Army List, and she continued during several

years to receive the pay as Cornet Le Pell. She had been one of the Maids of Honour to Queen Caroline, when Princess of Wales; and in that station was not less admired for the charms of her understanding, than for those of her face, which, even in very advanced age, retained sufficient remains of beauty to shew what it had been. Yet her features were not regularly handsome; and to judge from the portraits painted in her youth, much of that beauty was derived from the clearness and delicacy of a fair complexion, and the sweetness and animation of an expressive countenance.

“Pope, in his letter to Lord Hervey (his antagonist), mentions her with respect and esteem. Pultney, Earl of Bath, wrote the well-known ballad of ‘Molly Le Pel,’ in her praise. Dr. Young celebrated her in his sixth Satire, as does Gay likewise in his ballad of Damon and Cupid. The Hon. Horace Walpole (afterwards Earl of Orford), dedicated his ‘Anecdotes of Painters’ to her; and she was the intimate friend of the witty Earl of Chesterfield, who admired her conversation, and felt as much esteem and affection for her as he was capable of feeling for anybody. Nor was Lady Hervey’s acquaintance with persons of genius and learning confined to those of her own country, for she was not less admired by those of France; where, having contracted an intimacy with Madle. de Charelois, she for some years constantly resided in the hotel of that Princess; and there imbibed so strong a partiality in favour of that conceited nation, that at



length she adopted all its prejudices; and did really persuade herself to think it in all respects as far superior to every other, as in its own ignorance it imagines itself to be. This prejudice, however, though she made no attempt to conceal it, was never offensively displayed; for Lady Hervey was a pattern of the most finished good breeding, and possessed the talent of making everybody at the parties in her house suppose that he himself was the particular object of her attention.

“After her return to England, and the completion of the house she built in St. James’s-place, which was fitted up entirely after the Parisian model, her mode of life was rational, dignified, and highly agreeable to those who could be amused without cards, and had a taste for instruction and polished society. She never either dined, or passed the evening out of her own house; and had every day a dinner of eight covers, at which the company was so carefully chosen, that none but persons who were well-acquainted and liked each other, were invited at the same time. With extensive reading, a correct taste, and a perfect knowledge of the Italian, Latin, and French writers, Lady Hervey made no ostentatious display of learning; and had she never been celebrated by authors and wits of high reputation, her common acquaintance would not have discovered that the extent of her literary acquirements exceeded those of the generality of her sex.”

*No number.* The first Lord Hill, on ivory ; by Maria Jane Gooch.

121. Landscape, with Bathers ; painter unknown.

119. Amphitheatre at Rome ; by Occhiali.

120. Temple of Vesta, at Tivoli ; by Occhiali.

122. "A Landscape, by Taverna, equal to Poussin, and very rare ; a present from Fanquier." Pilkington, in his "Dictionary of Painters," says, — "This artist was a Proctor in the Commons, and painted landscapes for his amusement ; but would have made a considerable figure amongst the renowned professors of the art. The Earl of Harcourt and Mr. Fr. Fanquier, have each two pictures by him, that must be mistaken for, and are worthy of, Gaspar Poussin."

#### CORRIDOR, UPPER NORTH WING.

234. "Henrietta Jane Speed, wife to the Count de Viry ; by Falconet." Lord Harcourt has written a long account of Madm. de Viry : Horace Walpole's shorter account is here given :— 28½ x 24

"The Count de Viry was son of one of the same title, who had been the Sardinian Minister in England, and was himself Ambassador in France. While in England, in 1760, he married Miss Speed, niece of Lady Cobham. The Countess de Viry was supposed to be the cause of the disgrace her husband suffered. She was a very intriguing woman, and instigated him to keep up a secret correspondence at Turin, with the object of making himself Prime Minister. This was discovered, and

the Minister dismissed. Lord Shelburne, who was a friend of the Countess, prevailed on the King to obtain their pardon of the King of Sardinia in 1783; about which time she died suddenly. She was one of the heroines of Mr. Gray's 'Long Story,' and had a great deal of wit;" and, Lord Harcourt adds, "no heart:" the picture is a good one.

Ph 237. "Mrs. Pritchard, the celebrated actress, in Hermione, in the 'Winter's Tale;' by Pine:" a good picture.  $26\frac{1}{2} \times 21\frac{1}{2}$

239. "Landscape, with Cattle; by Cowden."

143. "A Sea-piece, by Cowden; a clear and beautiful drawing."

298. The Church at Nuneham; by Paul Sandby.

299. The House at Nuneham; by Paul Sandby.

300. Another view of the Church at Nuneham; by Paul Sandby.

301. View of the House at Nuneham; Paul Sandby.

288. Flower-garden at Nuneham; by Paul Sandby.

289. Flower-garden at Nuneham; by Paul Sandby.

*No numbers.* Two ground-plans of Stanton-Harcourt: one on vellum, 1625; the other on parchment, 1730.

#### DRESSING-ROOM, UPPER NORTH WING.

*No numbers.* Print of E. W. Harcourt; Print of Aubrey Harcourt; Drawings by Lady Susan Harcourt; Prints after Raphael.

See 11 (155)

2 large  
1/1 and  
8 small  
Harcourt

## BEDROOM, UPPER NORTH WING.

*No numbers.* Prints after Raphael; Drawings by Lady Susan Harcourt; Prints published by Arundel Society; Print of Dr. Johnson; Print of Mr. Coxe.

## BEDROOMS UPSTAIRS, NORTH WING.

*No numbers.* Prints after Raphael; Prints, Arundel Society.

258. Mr. Fazakerley, 1805.

259. Lord Lewisham, 1805.

260. Edward, second son of Edward, Archbishop Harcourt, 1803.

262. The same, 1805.

261. Earl Gower, 1805.

## LOWER SITTING-ROOM, NORTH WING.

141. Portrait of a favourite Dog of Lord Harcourt's.

150. Landscape, by Roberts of Dublin.

153. Landscape, by Roberts of Dublin.

148. A Marine-piece, by Cowden; a present from himself.

310. Caroline, Princess of Wales, and Princess Charlotte; a present from the Princess of Wales to the Hon. Martha Vernon.

*No number.* The Hon. Horace Walpole.

144. A Sea-piece, by Cowden.

151. A Landscape, by Whitford.

152. A Landscape, by Whitford.

## LARGE SITTING-ROOM, NORTH WING.

322. Aubrey Harcourt ; by Reginald Cholmondeley, 1858. A present from the painter.
279. A proof print of Mrs. Siddons as the Tragic muse ; a present from herself.
255. Very pretty picture, in crayons, of a Lady ; subject and artist unknown.
- No number.* A Sea-piece, in chalk, by Bright.
- No number.* Two prints from Raphael.
- No numbers.* Numerous water-colours, sepia and cobalt drawings, by Lady Susan Harcourt ; very spirited.

## BEDROOMS IN CENTRE.

230. "Drawing of the House in which Jean Jacque Rousseau lived at Metiers Travers, by Smith ; a present from the Marquis de Gerardin."
231. Ruins of Bodiam Castle, Sussex, by Lambert ; a present from Mrs. H. Hay. G. Lambert died in 1765.
272. Sepia sketch in Rome ; by Lady Elizabeth Harcourt.
280. Another, the same as above.
296. Sepia sketch ; artist unknown.
297. Another, the same as above.
302. A chalk Head.
303. Copy of Sir J. Reynolds' picture of the Duchess of Gloucester ; by Rev. J. Stuart.
306. Pen sketch of the Rev. W. Mason.
307. Print of Grey.
311. Print of Queen Charlotte.
- No numbers.* Travelling Musicians. Lady Elizabeth

Lee. Mr. Mason. A Fortune-teller. Lady Bingham. Mrs. Siddons and her Son ; a present from herself. Mrs. Siddons ; a present from Sir Joshua Reynolds. Mrs. Farrer, the Comedian, afterwards Countess of Derby ; a present from herself. View in Naples. The three Ladies Waldegrave. Maria, Duchess of Gloucester. Simon, Earl Harcourt. The Last Supper. Besides other engravings.

#### HOUSEKEEPER'S ROOM.

- 274. "A capital and expressive drawing of the Children in the Wood, by Miss C. Fanshawe."
- 277. A Landscape with Ruins.
- 278. Print of King George III.
- 282. Scriptural print.
- 284. The Bishop of Carlisle, afterwards Archbishop (Harcourt) of York.
- 285. A Print of Carfax.
- 286. Lord Harcourt.
- 287. Lady Harcourt.
- 290. Lord Chancellor Harcourt.
- 291. View of Stanton Harcourt, by Rathbone.
- 292. The same.
- 293. The same.

#### STEWARD'S ROOM.

- 262. A Landscape.
- 267. A Sketch ; by Elizabeth, Countess Harcourt.
- 268. The same.
- 269. A Portrait, unknown.
- 271. A Landscape, unknown.

272. A Landscape, by Lord Nuneham.

318. A Landscape, unknown.

### THE SMOKING-ROOM

Contains Drawings, chiefly done by Aubrey Harcourt.

## NUNEHAM PICTURES

*At 6, Prince's Gardens, London.*

### LIBRARY.

209. "Susanna and the Elders, by Annibale Carracci."

So says Lord Harcourt's Catalogue. It is an ill-drawn picture, and probably not by Carracci. It was painted up to its present state by Thane, in 1835, for which he charged 31*l.*; and he charged, moreover, 18*l.* for repairing the frame. 66×44

216. "A Ruined Bridge (Ponta Rotta) with Figures, by Crabetje." A good picture, for which Lord Harcourt paid 5*l.* 5*s.* on April 16, 1756. John Asselyn, called Crabetje on account of the shape of his fingers, was born at Antwerp, 1610; and died 1660, aged 50. 52×66

Ph. 196. "A Turkish army on its march in Egypt, by Wyck." This picture was bought by Simon, Lord Harcourt, in 1741, for 5*l.* 62×51 in

128. "The Nativity, by Pietro da Pietri." Bought by Lord Harcourt, 1741, for 12*l.* 12*s.* The painter was born at Rome, 1665; and died 1716, aged 51.

No numbers. Two Landscapes; subjects and painters unknown.

Sale 11 (198)

Sale 11 (190)

Sale 11 (199)

357 × 38

Sale 11 (194)

In C.

Pope's

Stanley

197

## BACK DINING-ROOM.

125. "Nymph and Satyr, by Jordeans of Antwerp;" probably a copy.

## DINING-ROOM.

126. "Vandermyn, painter to the Prince of Orange. Upon the stretching-frame is the following inscription:—

"The face was done by Her Royal Highness Anne, Princess of Orange, soon after her marriage, while the painter was attending at St. James's to take the pictures of the said Prince and Princess on that happy occasion. He parted with it just before his death, which happened in Feb. 1741, to Mrs. Clare, of Soho-square, London; all but the face was done by himself. The Princess was a good painter, and did it in great grace and condescension."

117. "A Fruit-piece, by Michael Angelo Campidaglio: very fine." This painter was born at Rome, 1610; and died 1670, aged 60.
118. A Pair to No. 117.
270. "View of Nuneham, by Paul Sandby:" a good picture.
317. "View of Nuneham, by Paul Sandby;" likewise a good picture.
235. "Cascade of Terni; by Orizonti." John Francis van Bloemen, called Orizonte from the hot, vaporous air of his pictures, was born at Antwerp, 1656; and died 1740, aged 84.



147. George Simon, Earl Harcourt, painted late in life ; painter not known.
76. Sir Simon Harcourt (afterwards Lord Chancellor), by Kneller ; a finished picture.
127. "A Hare, and other dead Game, by Fytt ; from the collection of Mr. Bagnol : very fine." This picture was bought by Lord Harcourt, March 26, 1757, for 9*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* Fytt was born at Antwerp, 1625 ; the picture is a very good one. 37x28

July 11 (1757) 1948  
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#### THE TAPESTRY ROOM.

An account of Nuneham would not be complete without a mention of the Tapestry-room. From the year 1787 to the year 1809, Lord Harcourt was constantly seeking for evidence to complete his genealogical researches, the results of which were preserved in this chamber. By a stroke of fate, George Granville Harcourt, whose bent of mind lay in the direction of the fine gentleman and politician, swept away in one day the work which had cost his Uncle so many years of patient labour. He presented the Maps to the Yorkshire Museum, where they have no peculiar fitness ; and the shields and panels were used for firewood.

What follows is given in Lord Harcourt's words, without alteration :—

#### *"The Tapestry Room.*

"25 by 19, and 15 feet high, was added in the year 1787, for the reception of the Sheldon Maps. This

very curious tapestry, of which Mr. Gough, in his 'Topographical Antiquities,' gives the following description, comes from Weston in Warwickshire, and was a present from the Hon. Horace Walpole :—

“Three large maps of Warwick, Oxford, and Worcestershire, near 80 feet square ; by Francis and Richard Hicks. This first of them has this inscription in capitals, adorned with bears :—“Warwickshire, so named as well of the Saxons as of us at this daye ; it is divided in two parts by the river Avone ronninge through the midst. The one is called Feldon, the other Woodland. The most memorable towns in the Feldons are Lemington, taking the name of the river Leame, where a salt well springeth. Ichinton and Harbury, betwene which two townes Fermandus, the son of Kinge Offa was slayn,—a man of singular vertue ; and buried in his father's palace, called Ofchurch. The Woodland being the north part, and the greater, was by an auncient name called Arden, which signifieth a wood. In the middle of this region standeth Coventre, so called of the Covente of Monkes ; a citie in times past populus and riche by the trade of clothing and making of cappes. Near Coventre, on the east part, is Caledon, the auncient seat of the Lorde Segrave, from whom it is descended to make the Barons of Barkley, by the Mowbraies, Dukes of Northfolke. Westward from Coventre standeth the Castle of Kenelworth, compassed about with a great pool, first buildid by Jeffrey Clinton, Chamberlayne to Kinge Henre the First. About 5 miles from thence standeth Warwicke, called by the Brytaines Caer Gnarvick, which signifieth

a place of defence ; whear is a castle of great force builded by the Romanes.

““William the Conqueror ordeyned xii Burgesses in Warwicke to attende on him in his warres. Near unto Warwicke is Guye’s cliffe, a place of wonderful pleasure ; whear Guye of Warwicke builded a chapel, and was there buried.—Read W. Camden, his discription of Bri.”

““At the opposite corner are the arms of England, supported by a lion and a griffin ; at another corner the arms of Sheldon with six quarterings ; and at the fourth, the compasses and scale of miles, with the date 1588, which was discovered since this tapestry was cleaned and restored.

““The second map has this inscription :—“*Oxonii et Berceriae comitatus locupletati per Franciscum Hickes.*” The arms here are Sheldon, impaling Argent, six lionels rampant sable ; this comprehends part of Bucks, Herts, Bedfordshire, Middlesex, Wilts, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, and other bordering counties.

““The third is intituled,—“*Wigorn, com. locupletata, Ric. Hykes ;*” bordered by part of Hereford, Stafford, Northampton, Oxfordshire, and all Warwickshire. Sheldon here impales the quarterings as before ; and here is also this single coat, Argent, a fess between three pears sable (the arms of the city of Worcester). The compass in this exactly resembles that in Saxton’s Kent, and other maps. In these maps the principal county is bounded by a strong line of red ; the principal rivers and streams are marked blue, the hills, clumps of trees, and even windmills (particularly one of the

latter, which stood within memory before the house) are expressed. The names of the counties are in Italic Capitals; those of towns not always well spelt. Roll-right has eight pyramidical stones, and a windmill. Ricot is represented as a castle with several towers. If these maps are not copied from Saxton, their large scale, and minute detail, is an improvement on the first effort of map-making among us; and it would be well worth to compare them. Nor is this their only merit; they are the earliest specimens of tapestry weaving in England, which was first introduced by William Sheldon, in the reign of Henry VIII.; and it is not improbable that he intended to unite the memorial of two new discoveries. The spelling savours of Flemish artists.'

"To the above description by Mr. Gough may be added, that the beacons then existing are represented in these maps, as are likewise the several parks and bridges; and of the latter, those which are built with stone are distinguished from those which are of wood. Woodstock park alone, among the many similar enclosures in Oxfordshire and the other counties, is represented as surrounded with a stone wall.

"The frize of this room is divided into compartments, in which are inserted Gothic shields, bearing upon them the arms of the Harcourt family, from its origin, An. 876, with its respective matches in their proper colours, and in genealogical order, alternately with the Vernon knot. Over the doors are two curious and very ancient whole-length pictures of St. Catherine, and of a male saint; they were the two folding-doors of an altar-piece. Between the windows are the arms of the Hon. Horace

Walpole, with the date 1787, the year in which the room was built. In the two round pannels are the arms of Robert Harcourt, Knight of the Garter, in the reign of Edward IV., 1463. And those of Robert, his grandson, Knight of the Bath, 1495. In each angle of the ceiling is a Knight in armour, upon a horse caparisoned according to ancient usage, representing four of the Harcourts, who by marriage added large estates to the family possessions.

*“ Over the door: Robert Harcourt, impaling Camville,  
1202.*

*“ Opposite to it: W. Harcourt, impaling Noel, 1209.*

*“ Left of the Windows: Sir Richard Harcourt, impaling  
De Quincy, 1250.*

*“ Right of ditto: Sir Christopher Harcourt, impaling  
Stapleton, 1474.*

*“ Shields in the Frize, beginning on the left as you enter  
the room:*

*“ 1. Bernard the Dane, An. 876, impaling Sprote  
de Bourgoyne.*

*“ 2. Torf, Lord of Torville, impaling Ertemberg de  
Briquebec, 947.*

*“ 3. Turchetil, Lord of Turcheville, impaling Ade-  
line de Montfort, 1001.*

*“ 4. Anchetil, Lord of Harcourt, impaling Eva de  
Boissy de Chartel, 1027.*

*“ 5. Robert, Lord of Harcourt, impaling Colede  
d'Argonges, 1094.*

*“ 6. William, Lord of Harcourt, impaling Hue d'Am-  
boise, 1124.*

- "7. Ivo de Harcourt, second son.
- "8. Robert de Harcourt, impaling Isabel, daughter and heir of Richard de Camville, died 1202.
- "9. William de Harcourt, impaling daughter and co-heir of Thomas Noel, An. 1209.
- "10. Sir Richard, impaling Arabella, daughter of Sayer de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, living 1209.
- "11. Sir William, impaling Hillaria, daughter of Henry, Lord Hastings, died 1278.
- "12. Sir Richard, impaling Margaret, daughter and co-heir of John, Lord Beke, living 1250.
- "13. Sir John, impaling Ellen, daughter of Eudo le Zouch, died 1330.
- "14. Sir William, impaling Joan, daughter of Richard, Lord Grey of Codnor, died 1349.
- "15. Sir Thomas, impaling Maud, daughter of Robert, Lord Grey of Rotherfield, died 1417.
- "16. Sir Thomas, impaling Joan, daughter of Sir Robert Frauncis, died 1460.
- "17. Sir Robert, K.G., impaling Margaret, daughter of Sir John Byron, 1463.
- "18. Sir Robert, K.B., impaling Agnes, daughter of Thomas Lymbrake.
- "19. Sir Richard, impaling Edith, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas S. Clare, died 1487.
- "20. Sir Christopher, impaling Joan, daughter and co-heir of Sir Miles Stapleton, 1474.
- "21. Sir Simon, impaling Agnes, daughter of Thomas Darell, died 1547.
- "22. Sir John, impaling Margaret, daughter of Sir Edward Aston, died 1577.

- "23. Sir Walter, impaling Dorothy, daughter of William Robinson.
- "24. Robert, impaling Frances, daughter of Geoffrey Vere, died 1631.
- "25. Sir Simon, impaling Anne, daughter of William, Lord Paget, died 1643.
- "26. Sir Philip, impaling Anne, daughter of Sir William Waller, died 1688.
- "27. Simon, Viscount Harcourt, impaling Rebecca, daughter of Rev. Thomas Clark, died 1727.
- "28. Hon. Simon Harcourt, impaling Elizabeth, daughter of John Evelyn, died 1720.
- "29. Simon, first Earl, impaling Rebecca, daughter and heir of Charles Samborne le Bas, died 1777.
- "30. George Simon, second Earl, impaling Elizabeth, daughter of George, Lord Vernon.

*"On the opposite side, beginning at the left, Collateral  
Branches married to Heiresses :*

- "Rollo de Harcourt, impaling Roesia, daughter and heir of William Peverell.
- "Simon de Harcourt, impaling Adeline, daughter and heir of Osbert de Arden.
- "Sir Robert de Harcourt, impaling Dionisia, daughter and heir of Henry Pipard.
- "Sir Henry, impaling Emma, daughter and heir of William Maunsel.
- "Sir Richard, impaling Joan, daughter and heir of Sir William Shareshull.
- "Michael, impaling daughter and heir of — Tylney.

“Philip, impaling Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Timothy Woodroffe.

“Simon, impaling Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Richard Anderson.

“Henry, impaling Frances, daughter and heir of Nathaniel Bard.

“*Collateral Matches of the Principal Line:*

“Sir William, impaling Alice, daughter of Allen le Zouch, first wife.

“Sir John, impaling Alice, daughter of Peter Corbet, second wife.

“Sir Richard, impaling Eleanor, daughter of Sir Roger Lewknor, second wife.

“Sir Simon, impaling Grace, daughter of Humphrey FitzHerbert, second wife.

“Sir Simon, impaling daughter of Sir William Spencer, third wife.

“Robert, impaling Elizabeth, daughter of John Herbert, first wife.

“Sir Philip, impaling Elizabeth, daughter and heir of John Lee, second wife.

“Simon, first Viscount, impaling Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Spencer, second wife.

“Simon, first Viscount, impaling Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Vernon, third wife.

“*Alliances with Sovereign Houses:*

“John, second Baron of Harcourt, 1288, impaling Agnes of Lorraine.

“John, third Count, 1302, impaling Alicia of Brabant, Lady of Arscot.



"John, fifth Count, 1353, impaling Blanch of Pon-thieu, Countess of Aumalle, Princess of Castile.

"John, sixth Count, 1374, impaling Catherine de Bourbon.

"John, seventh Count, 1380, impaling Mary of Alençon.

"Mary, Countess of Harcourt and Aumalle, in her own right, 1430; great great grandmother of Henry IV., King of France, impaling Anthony of Lorraine, Count of Vaudemont."

# *Over the Windows.*

“ Earls of Mellent, Leicester, and Warwick, descended from  
 Roger de Beaumont, great great grand-son of Bernard the Dane.  
 Adeline, sister and heir to Hugh, Earl of Mellent.

Robert de Beaumont, Earl of Mellent and Leicester. = Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh, Earl of Vermandois.

Henry de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick. = Margaret, sister to Ros-tro, Earl of Perche.

Robert de Beaumont, Earl of Mellent, grandson to Robert, Earl of Mellent and Leicester, and son of Walleran, Earl of Worcester. = Maud, daughter and co-heir to Reginald, Earl of Cornwall, natural son to King Henry I.

Roger, Earl of Warwick. = Gundreda, daughter of William, Earl of Warren, by Gundreda, sister to William the Conqueror.

Robert de Harcourt. = Joan, daughter, and at length heir, to Robert, Earl of Mellent.

Walleran, Earl of Warwick. = Alice, daughter of Robert de Harcourt.”

With the few following Letters this volume will conclude.

Lord Harcourt to Lord Jersey :—

“ *Tuesday, 1778.*

“ . . . . In a few days I shall stake out the boundary of the intended garden, that it may be enclosed with hurdles when Mason comes ; the temporary (or as G<sup>l</sup>. G. would call it the temporal) Park is made. Deer are bespoke ; and I have seven beautifull fauns in a stable ready to be turned out. A small part of the deer-park is paled, and paling prepared for a mile more : you find I am going to work in earnest. We have no company ; but Miss Danby comes to-morrow for one night only ; and on Thursday we expect Mrs. Harcourt and my brother.

“ Whenever your pregnancy, or Lady Jersey’s, which is almost the same thing, allows you to quit London, we shall be glad to see you.

“ I am all impatience for news from the fleet, and for an account of the motives of M<sup>r</sup>. Wedderbourne’s resignation, if true.

“ L<sup>y</sup> H. sends her love, and so Adieu.”

Lord Harcourt to Mr. Whitehead :—

“ *August 7, 1778.*

“ . . . . The Cave<sup>t</sup> is not near compleated, and will be a tedious and costly business ; to have it

<sup>t</sup> In the pleasure-grounds at Nuneham.

well done, and to secure the brains<sup>u</sup> of those who will most frequent it (for they have brains as well as skulls), I have been obliged to send for a person on purpose, who has chiefly been employed in making artificial rocks. It will, I think, be a pretty thing when compleated, and dry and cool ; and yet sheltered from cold winds and rain. It is lighted from the top by a bell glass, blown flater on purpose than usual."

Lord Harcourt to Mr. Whitehead :—

*"Monday.*

"Notwithstanding the late beautifull alteration in the flower-garden, that favourite spot (like the master of it) has seen its best days. And I fear will never be to me what it has been ; for my poor faithful Walter droped down dead in it on Saturday morning ; and though assistance was at hand, immediately expired.

"His loss I am very certain can never be repaired ; for I must not expect to meet with half his skill, or half his merit, in any successor I may make choice of ; and I am so much a creature of habit, that I shall ever miss him, who was become, by length of years and faithfull service, a part of the place, and almost of myself. I prophesy of my orange-trees, that they will all wither

<sup>u</sup> The inside of the roof is ornamented with artificial stalactites and stalagmites.

now he is gone ; and I shall be long before I can take any interest in a place which owed so much of its excellence to the unceasing care of the humble friend I have lost.

“You, who know how much of my time I have passed for a long course of years in the flower-garden with your old acquaintance, will not be surprized at the shock his death has given me.

“We dine at the B<sup>p</sup> of Salisbury’s to-morrow, to avoid seeing or knowing anything of Walter’s funeral ; which, because he was universally known and esteemed in all this neighbourhood, will be attended, it is thought, by a vast concourse of people. . . .”

Lord Harcourt to Lady Harcourt :—

“*Sat. night, April 23, 1786.*

“ . . . . Our dinner at the Cannons<sup>x</sup> was very agreeable, and he breakfasts with us on Tuesday next. Though you had not desired me to send you an account of our nephew<sup>y</sup>, I could not have omitted to mention him ; for without any partiality, he is the handsomest brat I ever saw of his age ; and has a beautiful complexion. He seems, too, in point of temper, an exact resemblance of his father and mother ; and every thing Lord Stafford told me of him is quite true. Ed-

<sup>x</sup> Afterwards Archbishop Harcourt.

<sup>y</sup> George Granville Harcourt.

ward says it is a very sensible child ; but that I know nothing of, nor do I believe it, because no infant of that age ever yet had one single grain of sense.

“We went to-day in the coach to my neighbours, and thence (for as usual he was not at home) to the Abingdon lodge ; and then got out and walked. The drive thence to the gate is formed, and admirably turned, and (as you would like it) at a considerable distance from the boundary ; so that a full and perfect view of the reach of the river, terminated by the town of Abingdon, is seen without deviating from the outline of the drive. They are now ploughing the hill, so that the trees cannot be planted ; and of course the drive wants a proper accompaniment. The road through the wood is beautiful beyond description, and far superior to the *ruinous* one set out by Mr. Hamilton ; the curves are good ; but some few of the tricks of the embellishing trade are requisite still, to shew those curves to advantage, supposing they could have been done without much expence, which I do not know that they could ; what I mean, relates to sinking the ground in different parts, as Brown used to do in his gravel walks. The descent at each extremity is rather too rapid ; but I believe in that respect it cannot be altered, nor could have been done better than it is. The drive in Black Wood I have not yet seen. . . .”

Earl Harcourt to Lady Harcourt :—

*“ Worcester, Monday, August 11, 1788.*

“ . . . . To-morrow morn<sup>g</sup> I shall see the manufactory. The King’s gift<sup>z</sup> to you is not yet gone hence ; but they promise it shall be dispatched to-night.

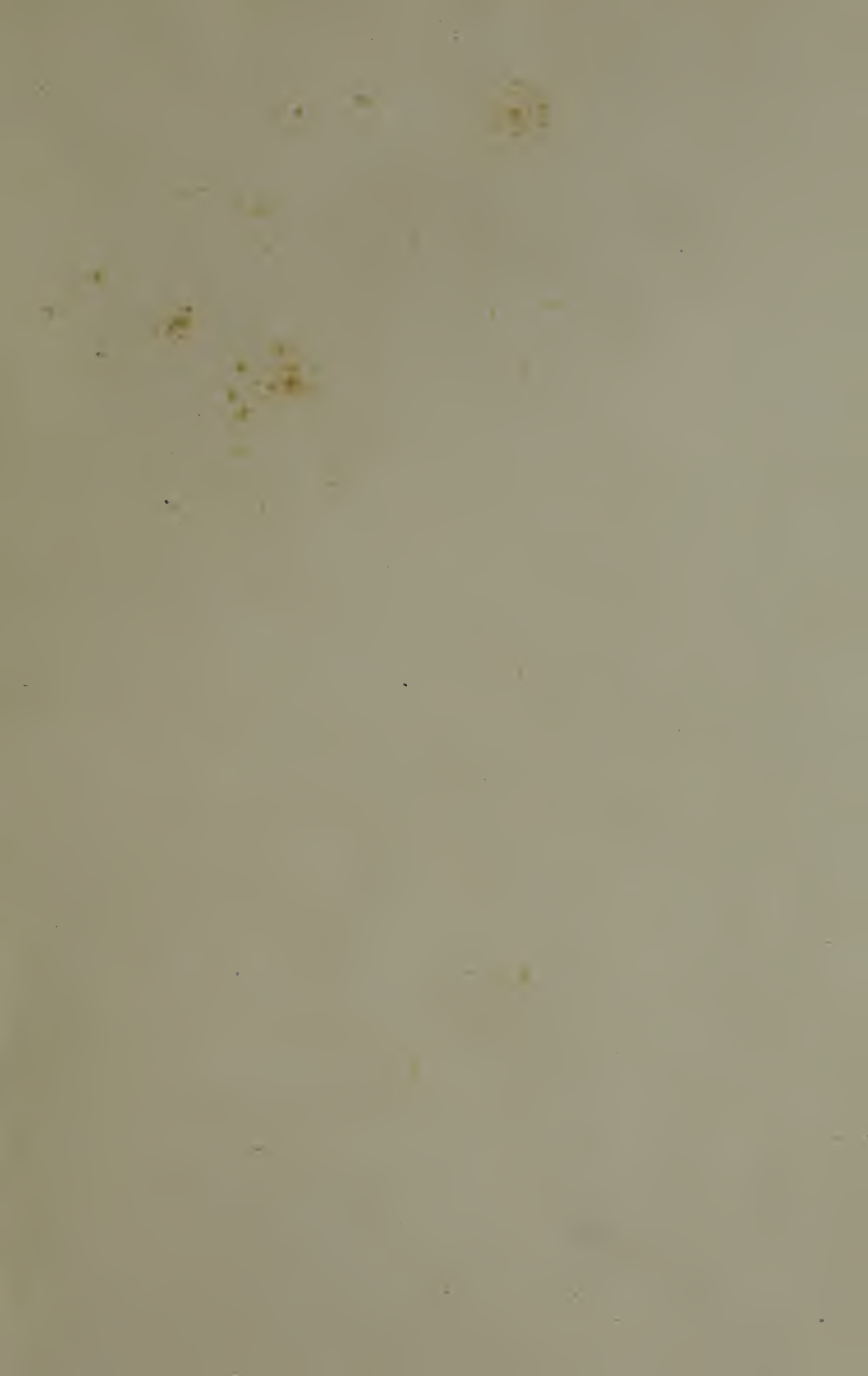
“ Remember your promise to endeavour to express (for it is impossible to express it fully) my gratitude to the K. and Q., for all their unmerited goodness to me. Kings can confer honour, but they have no power over the mind ; and unless they are *really* amiable and agreeable, they cannot make any body think them so. Ours is the most angelic of the human race ; and those who know him as you and I do, must have hearts of steel not to love him as we both do. . . . ”

<sup>z</sup> A tea-service in the cabinet in the Centre Corridor at Nuneham.

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